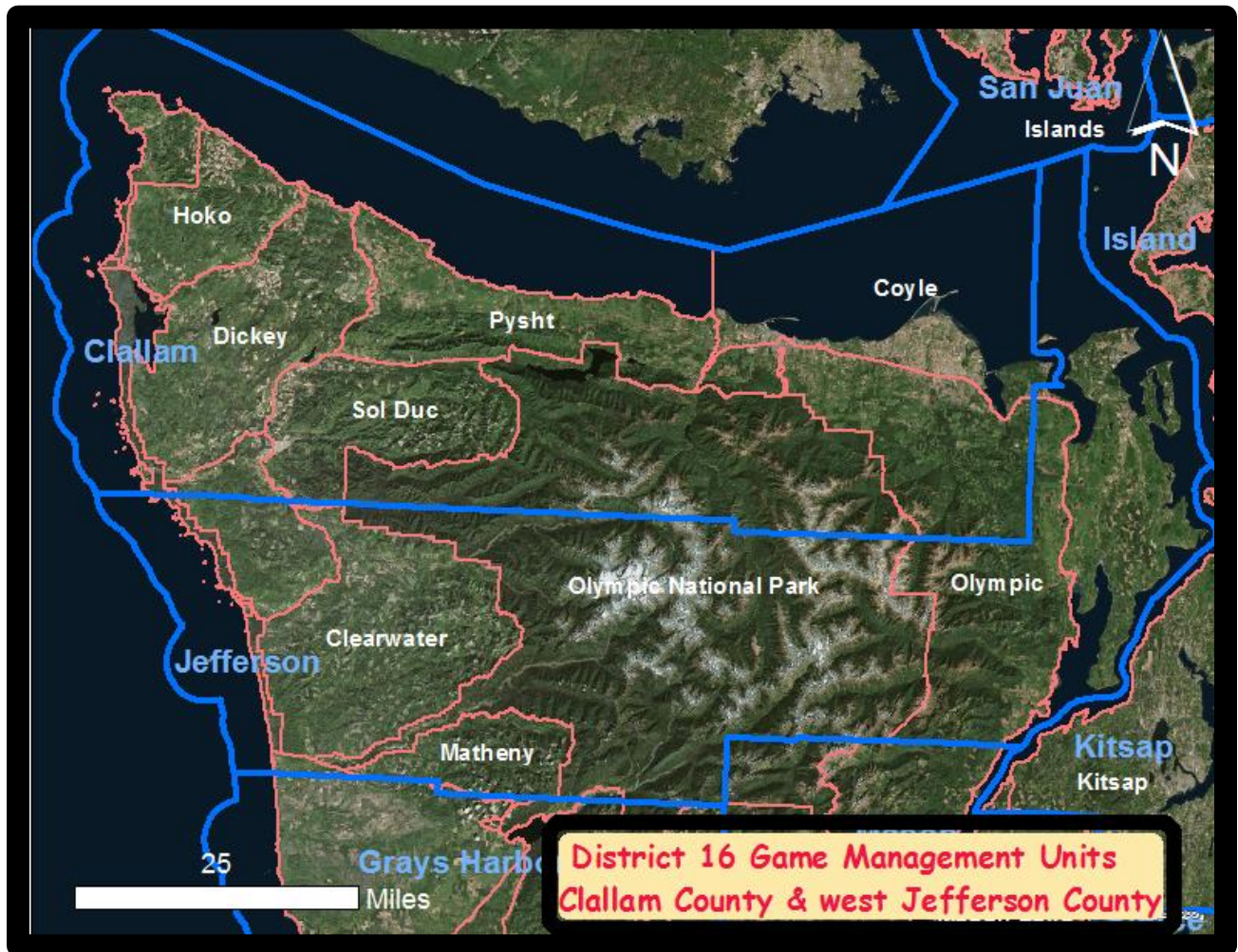


2016

ANITA McMILLAN , District Wildlife Biologist
SHELLY AMENT, Assistant District Wildlife
Biologist



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



WELCOME TO THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA

DISTRICT 16 HUNTING PROSPECTS

Clallam and west Jefferson counties

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DISTRICT 16 GENERAL OVERVIEW	1
EAST DISTRICT 16.....	1
WEST DISTRICT 16.....	2
ELK	2
General Information, Management Goals, and Population Status	2
Which GMU Should Elk Hunters Hunt?	3
District 16 Elk Hunting and Harvest Records	3
Notable Hunting Changes	13
Bacterial Hoof Disease	13
BLACK-TAILED DEER.....	13
General Information, Management Goals, and Population Status	13
Which GMU Should Deer Hunters Hunt?	13
District 16 Black-tailed Deer Hunting & Harvest Records	14
Deer Areas	24
Notable Hunting Changes	24
BEAR	24
General Information, Management Goals, and Population Status	24
COUGAR	25
General Information, Management Goals, and Population Status	25
Notable Changes	25
DUCKS.....	25
Common Species	25
Concentration Areas.....	25
Population Status	26
Harvest Trends and 2016 Prospects	27
Hunting Techniques	27

Public Land Opportunities	29
GEESE AND BRANT	30
Common Species	30
Population Status	30
Harvest Trends and 2016 Prospects	30
Hunting Techniques	30
Public Land Opportunities	30
FOREST GROUSE	31
Species and General Habitat Characteristics	31
Harvest Trends and 2016 Prospects	31
PHEASANTS	31
QUAIL	31
TURKEYS	32
BAND-TAILED PIGEONS	32
General Description	32
Harvest Trends and 2016 Prospects	32
Where and How to Hunt Band-tailed Pigeons	32
OTHER SMALL GAME SPECIES	32
TRIBAL HUNTING	33
FIREARM & WEAPON RESTRICTIONS	34
MAJOR PUBLIC LANDS	34
General Access – Public	34
PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL FORESTLANDS	35
General Information	35
Contact information For Major Timber Companies	35
Other Major Landowners	36
ONLINE TOOLS AND MAPS	36
HUNTING ORGANIZATIONS	37

DISTRICT 16 GENERAL OVERVIEW

District 16 includes Clallam County and the western portion of Jefferson County on the Olympic Peninsula. There are eight game management units (GMUs) in District 16, all bordering Olympic National Park, except for GMU 624 (Coyle). GMUs 624 (Coyle) and 621 (Olympic) extend into District 15 (Mason, Kitsap, and east Jefferson counties). GMU 618 (Matheny) is not included in District 16, although some maps may indicate otherwise. You can contact the District 17 wildlife biologist for information on GMU 618. Here is a link to the [Wildlife District Map with Biologist Contact Information](#).

Each GMU in District 16 has its own unique mix of land ownerships, including private residential, private agricultural, private industrial forest, state, and federal forest and park lands. Most higher-elevation forest lands are in public ownership (U.S. Forest Service and Olympic National Park). Lower elevation foothills are generally private industrial forest lands and lands managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).



EAST DISTRICT 16

The eastern quarter of the district is in the Dungeness Basin (western Coyle and northern portion of Olympic). The Dungeness watershed offers a rich diversity of habitats, from high elevation, rain-shadow mountains to lower watershed with plentiful wetland habitats dispersed amidst a mix of riparian and bygone prairie/oak forest. The prairie is now a rural mix of small and large farms with scattered developments. In the lower basin there are some choice private duck hunting club ownerships and a few public waterfowl hunting areas. Waterfowl hunting opportunities have been expanded in the eastern portion of the district in recent years. The Dungeness Basin and the smaller watersheds east of the Elwha are areas where deer are in such high numbers there are frequent complaints by rural and urban residents. The high visibility of deer in the Coyle and Olympic GMUs extends into the forestlands, where there is an ideal ratio of forest openings. The availability of deer for harvest is enhanced within Deer Area 6020, where harvest of any deer during the regular seasons is allowed. The main challenge with hunting in eastern District 16 is the large amount of small private ownerships, so time needs to be invested into arranging hunting access on the target private lands.

WEST DISTRICT 16

The west end (Hoko, Dickey, Sol Duc, Goodman, and Clearwater) has the bulk of the elk in the district, while the deer are rather sparse in these same GMUs. Various sub-herds of elk are located within District 16. Many elk herds are year-round residents that remain in lower elevation habitats. There are some herds that make regular migrations into the higher elevations, most always being on Olympic National Park habitat. There are opportunities to harvest elk as they migrate out of Olympic National Park high country and follow river drainages to low elevations during the hunting season. The eastern portion of GMU 615 (Clearwater) is in DNR ownership and contains higher-elevation areas bordering ONP.

Varied hunting opportunities exist within District 16, from waterfowl hunting on designated shoreline and wetland areas along the Strait of Juan de Fuca, to forest grouse, deer, elk, bear, and cougar hunting on private commercial and public forest land. Both state (DNR) and federal (U.S. Forest Service) lands provide hunting opportunities for a variety of species within the district.

ELK

GENERAL INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT GOALS, AND POPULATION STATUS

The elk within District 16 are Roosevelt elk. From ongoing monitoring and population trend studies, there are many elk throughout the district with radio collars, ear tags, and transmitters. It is very likely hunters will observe one of the elk captured in these studies. Hunters are encouraged to share collared-elk sighting information with the district biologist. WDFW often gets questions on whether it is legal to harvest an animal with a collar. It is legal, but can increase the cost of ongoing studies.

District 16 contains various sub-herds of the Olympic Elk Herd, one of 10 herds identified in the state. Elk are an important resource in Washington, providing significant recreational, aesthetic, cultural, and economic benefits to the people of the state. Elk numbers peaked in the late 1970s, with a conservative estimate of about 12,000 elk outside of Olympic National Park, based on historical harvest information. Current population estimates are based on a combination of harvest data, telemetry studies, and mark-resight surveys. These techniques yielded a fall population estimate of approximately 8,600 in the GMUs surrounding Olympic National Park in the year 2000. The current population of the Olympic elk herd is likely lower.

Much of the elk hunting within the district is restricted to a limited entry, 3-point minimum, bull-only harvest. These successfully managed hunts have been producing quality bulls and high hunter success rates for some permit hunts. Some elk herds migrate down from high alpine meadows in Olympic National Park to lowland winter range. Public lands and private commercial timberlands bordering the park are good prospects. Hunters often scout for elk that leave Olympic National Park and travel along major river drainages. Keep in mind that it is unlawful to hunt in ONP. Elk groups in GMU 603 (Pysht) have increased slightly in the past few years.

WHICH GMU SHOULD ELK HUNTERS HUNT?

GMUs 615 (Clearwater), 602 (Dickey), and 607 (Sol Duc) have the highest elk harvest in District 16. These units contain large acreages of public land, much of it without restricted access. Be aware there are gated roads in all of these GMUs, some allowing hunters foot access and others closed to the public.

GMUs 601 (Hoko), 603 (Pysht), and 624 (Coyle) have very limited opportunities for general season hunters. Most of these units contain private land, and many of the roads on timberlands are gated. Hunting on DNR lands, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands, and private timberlands in other GMUs within the district can yield good results. However, it is important to note there are several areas where vehicular access is limited. Hunters would need to obtain permission to hunt on private lands and must obey all posted signs and regulations.

Hunting seasons have been established to allow recreational use and, often simultaneously, be used as a tool for managing elk populations within the district. The eastern district rarely has a report of elk harvest from the general season in GMU 624. Harvest within Elk Area 6071 is limited to damage control, occasionally involving Master Hunter elk hunts from the Region 6 permit list. Check the [Big Game hunting pamphlet](#) or the WDFW website for more information. The eastern district elk harvest in GMU 621 (Olympic) is limited to permit and tribal harvest.

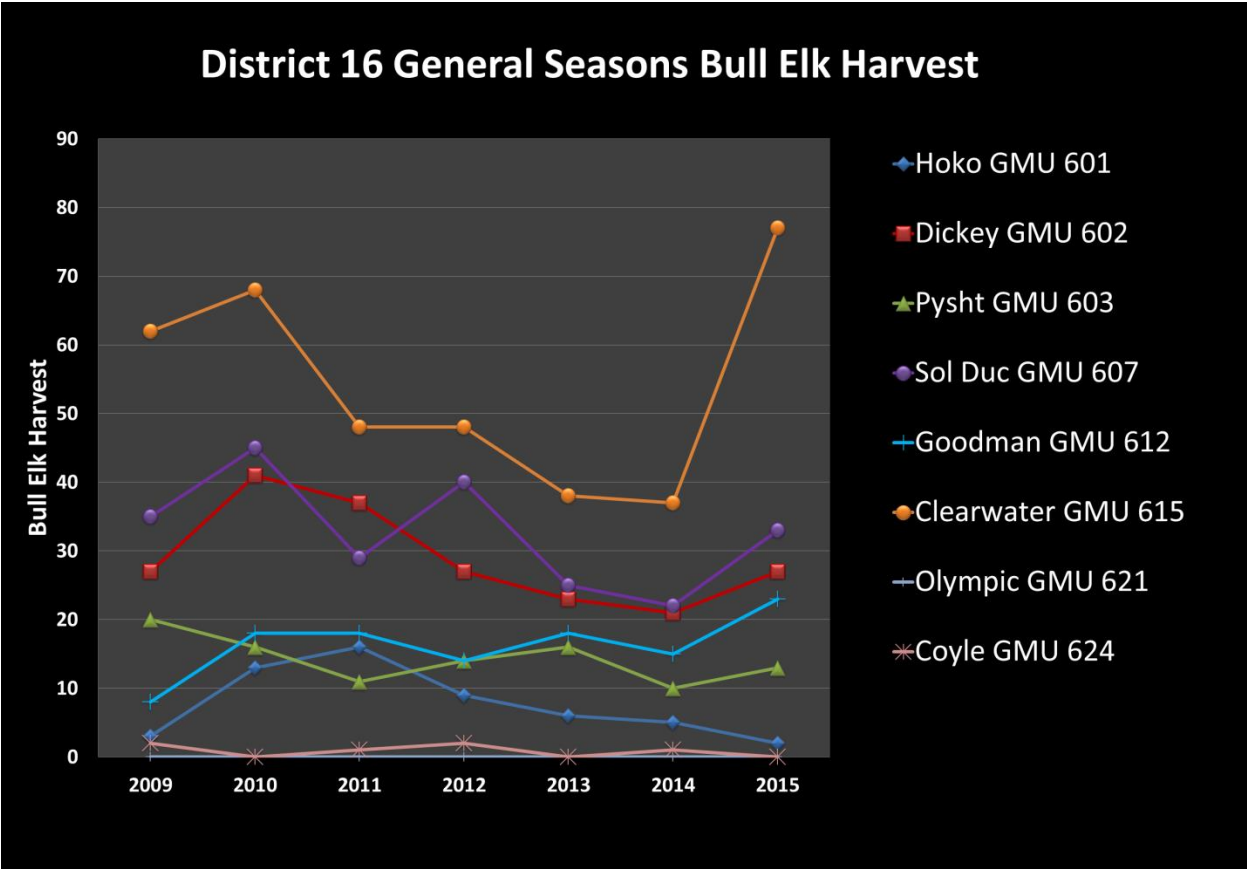
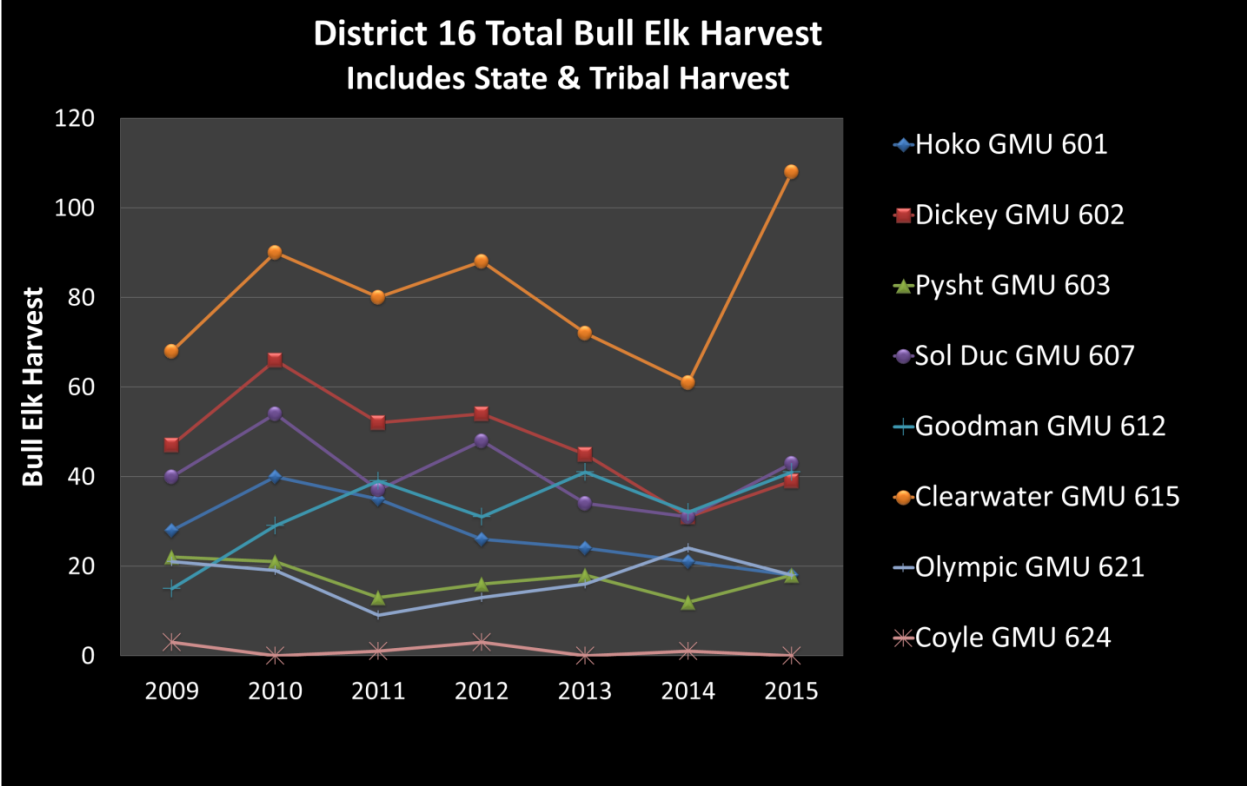
A thesis on elk with research conducted in GMUs 601 (Hoko) and 602 (Dickey) is available on this website: [Movements and Habitat Use of Female Roosevelt Elk in Relation to Human Disturbance on the Hoko and Dickey Game Management Units, Washington](#).

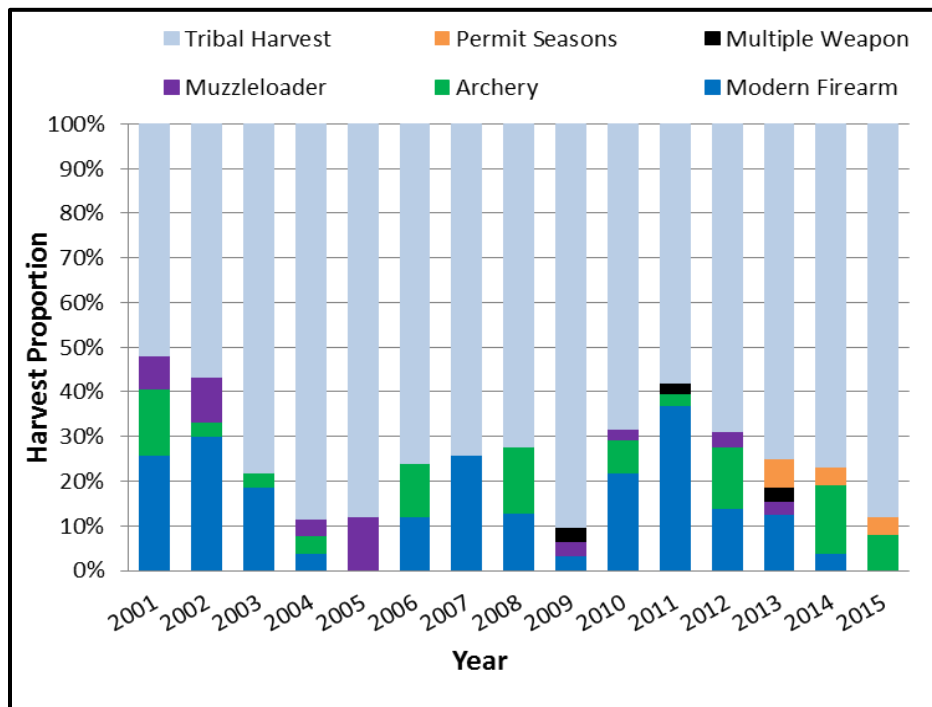
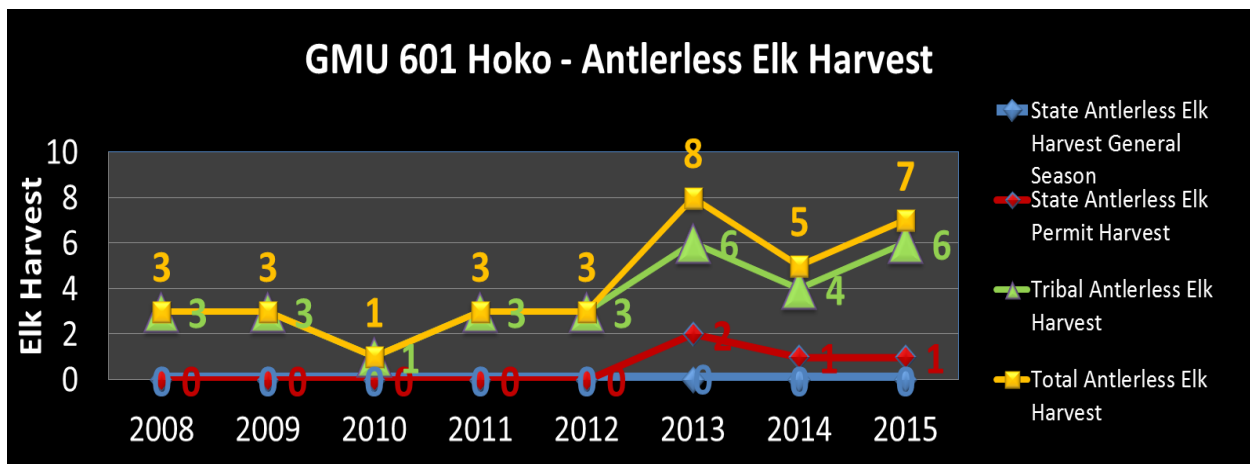
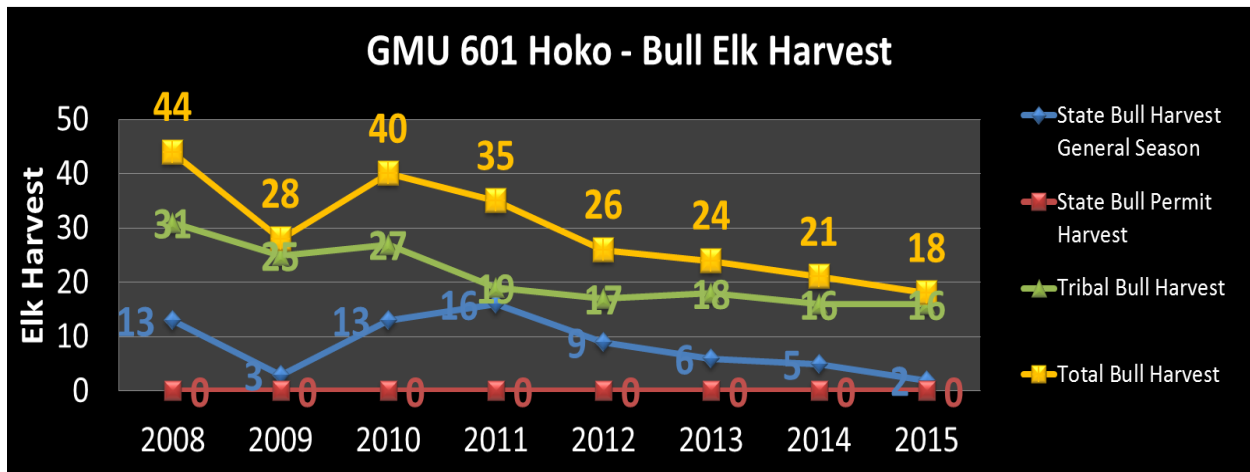
[Annual harvest reports](#) and harvest statistics for elk based on hunter reporting can be found on the WDFW website.

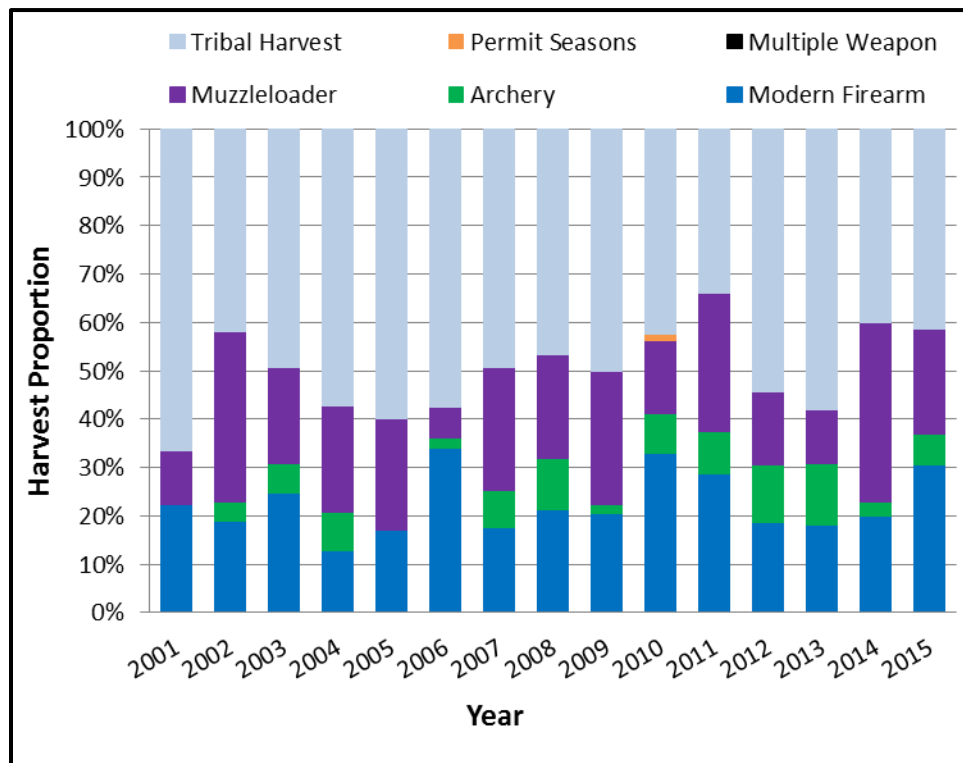
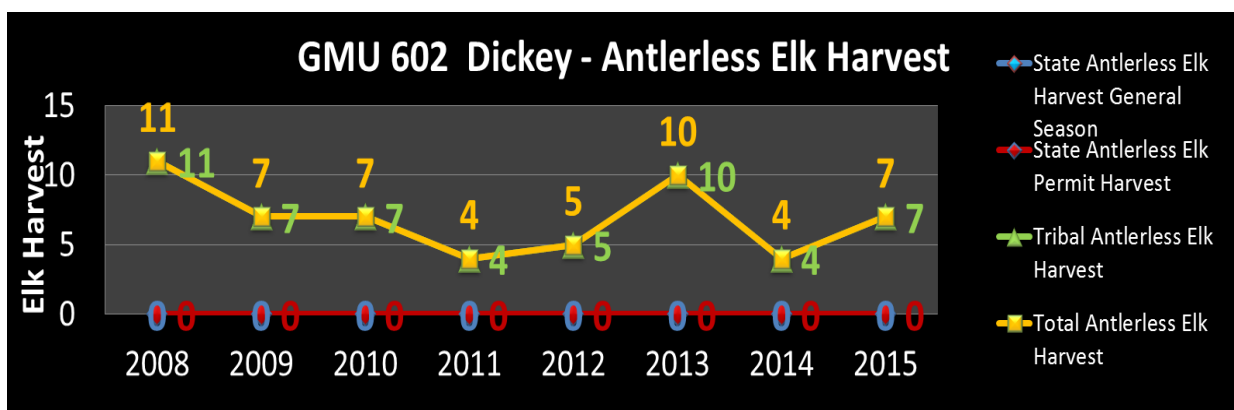
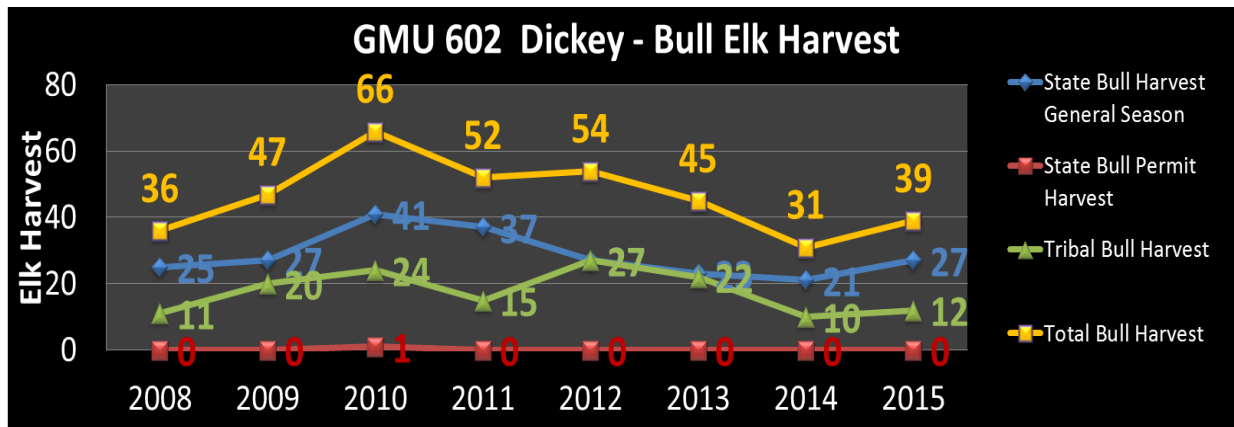
See the District 15 Hunting Prospects for more information about GMUs 621 and 624.

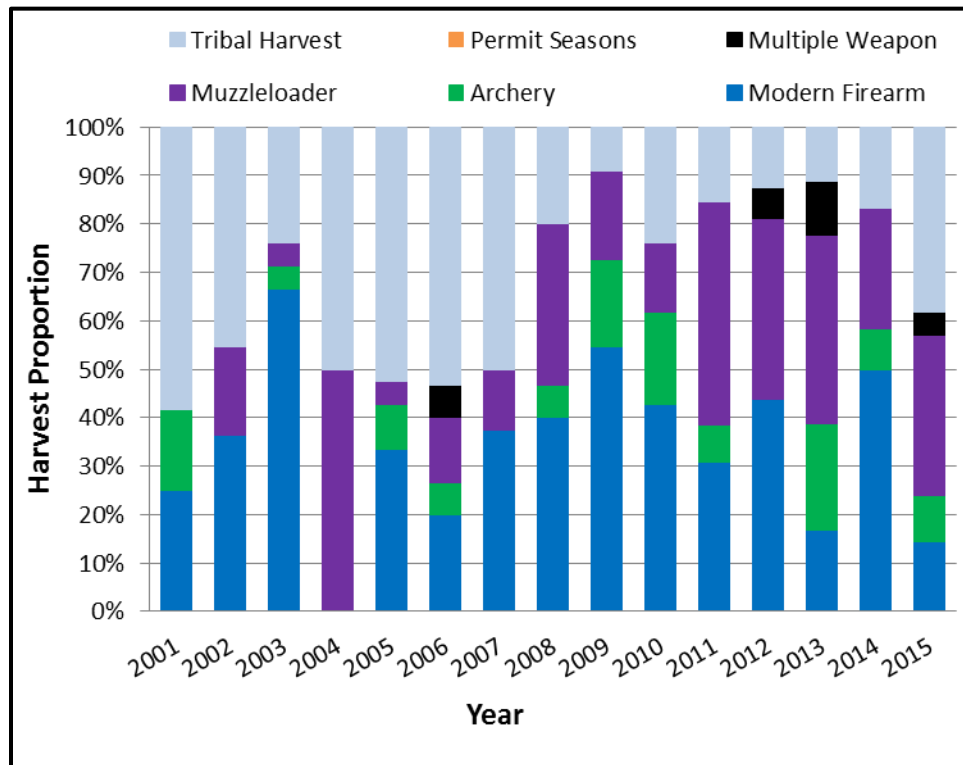
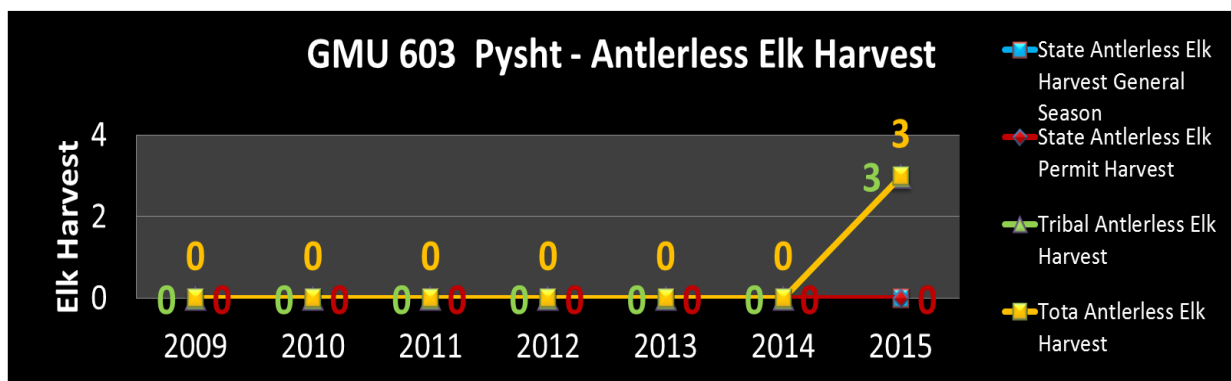
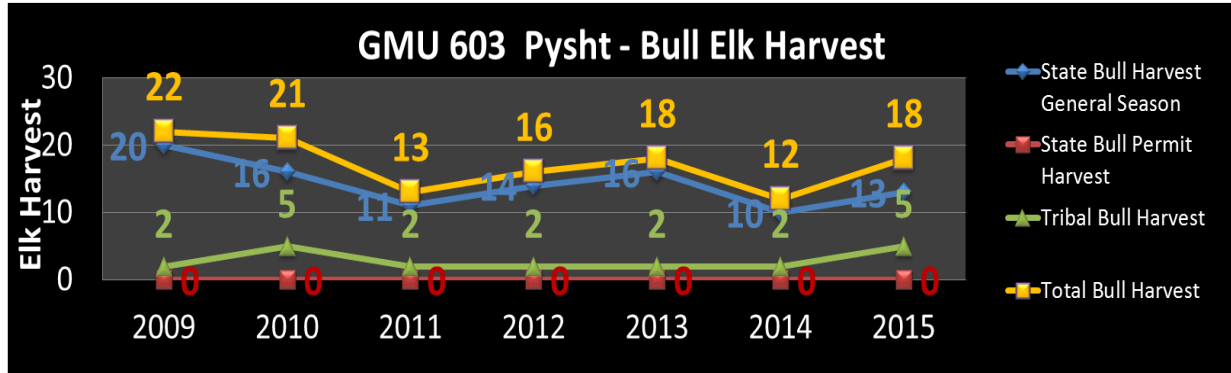
DISTRICT 16 ELK HUNTING AND HARVEST RECORDS

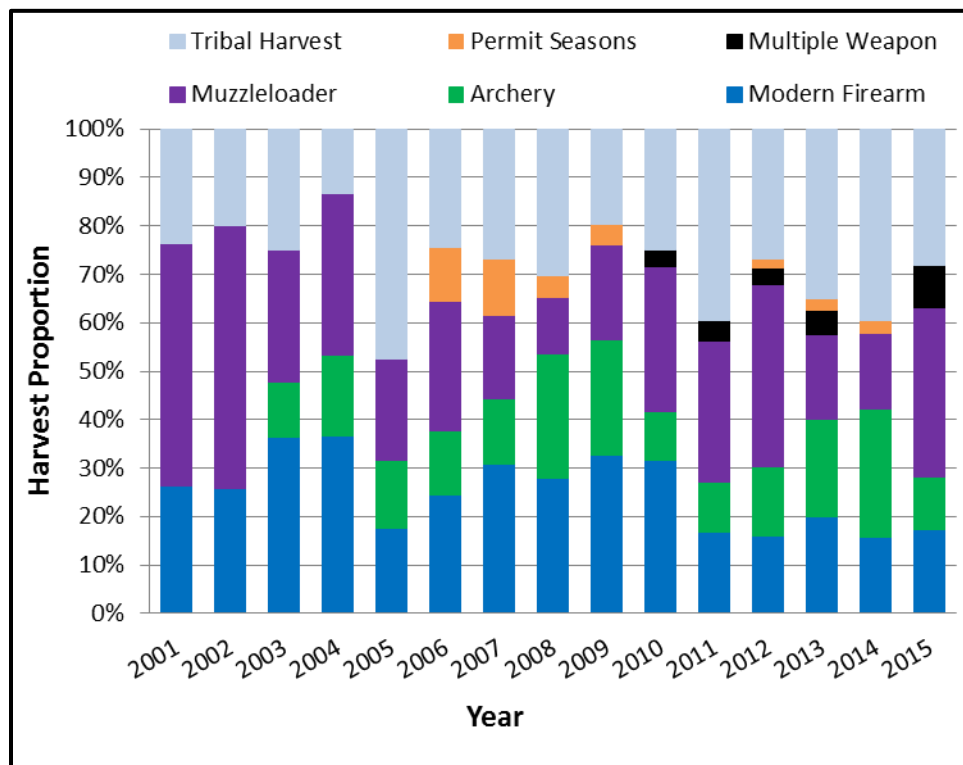
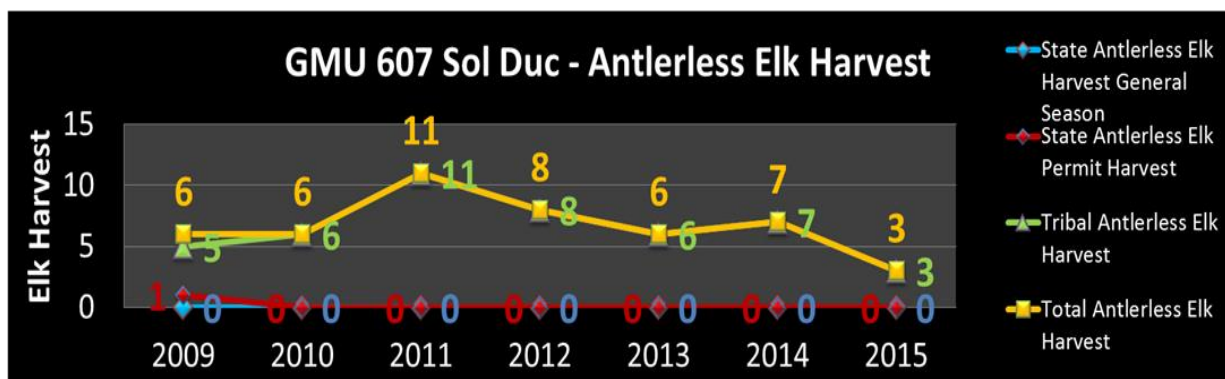
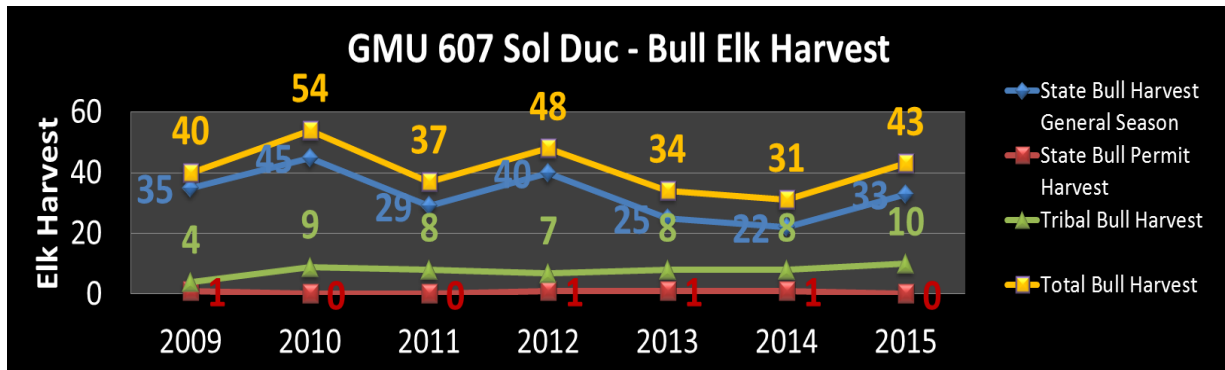
The following pages display graphs of the harvest and hunting effort, including success, in the individual GMUs within District 16. If you have any questions about this information, contact District Biologist McMillan at anita.mcmillan@dfw.wa.gov.

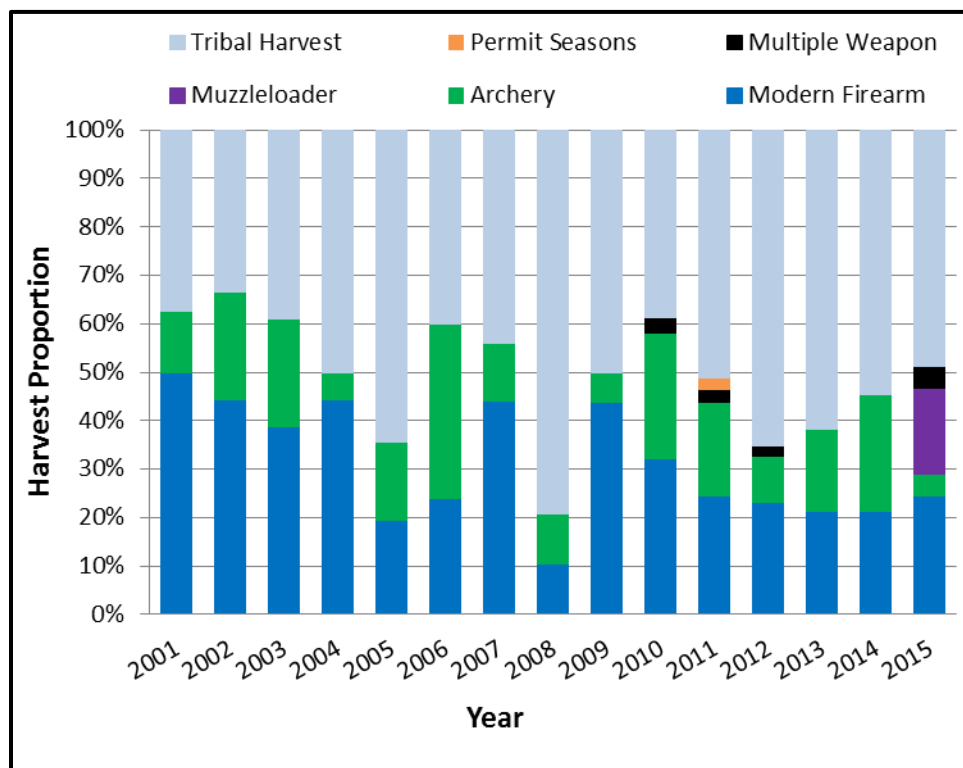
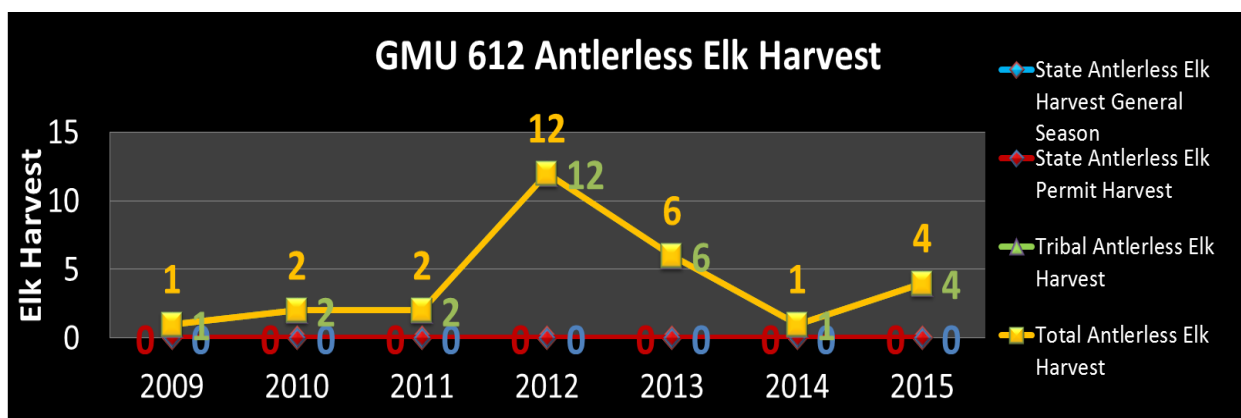
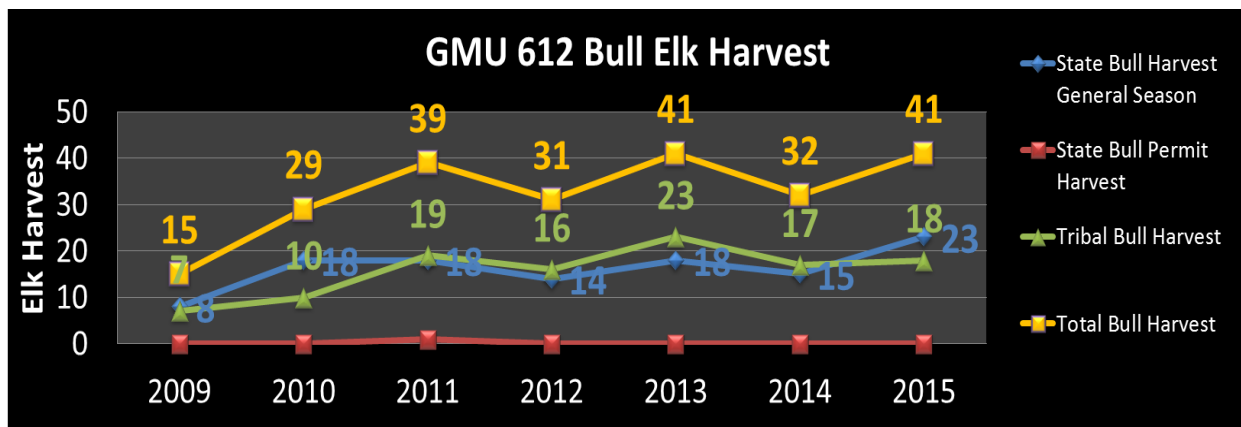


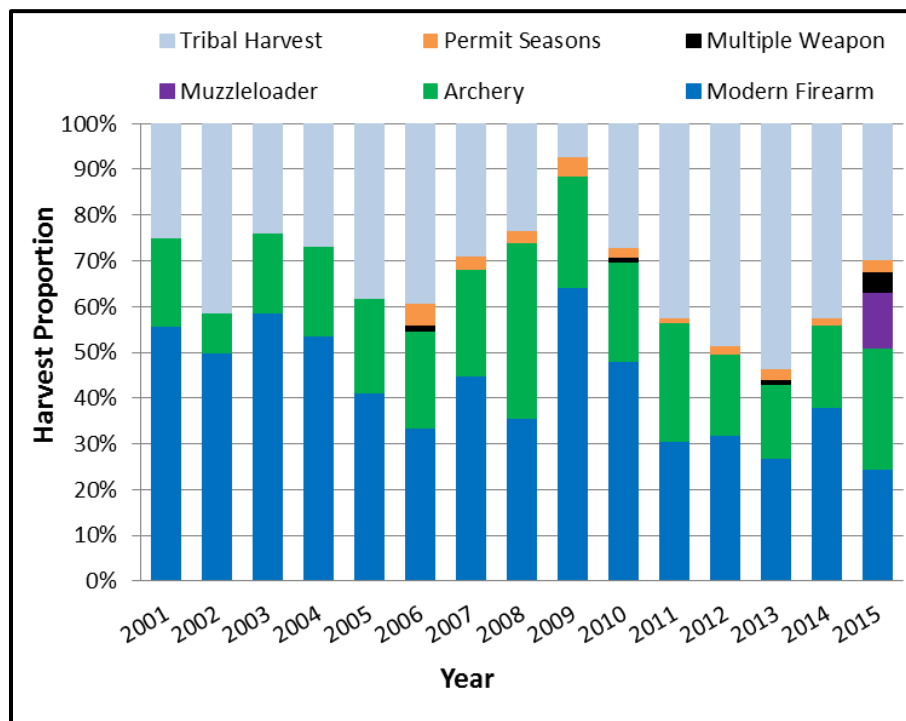
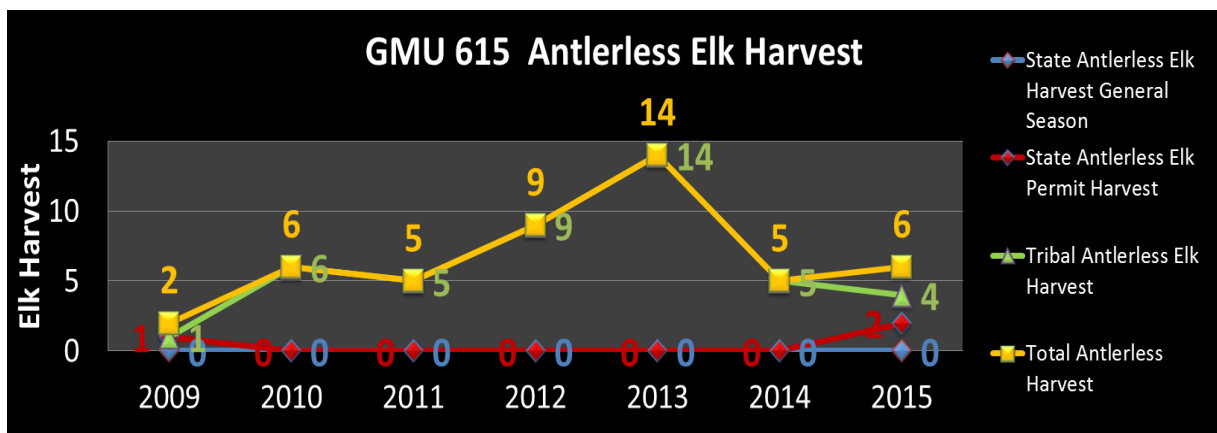
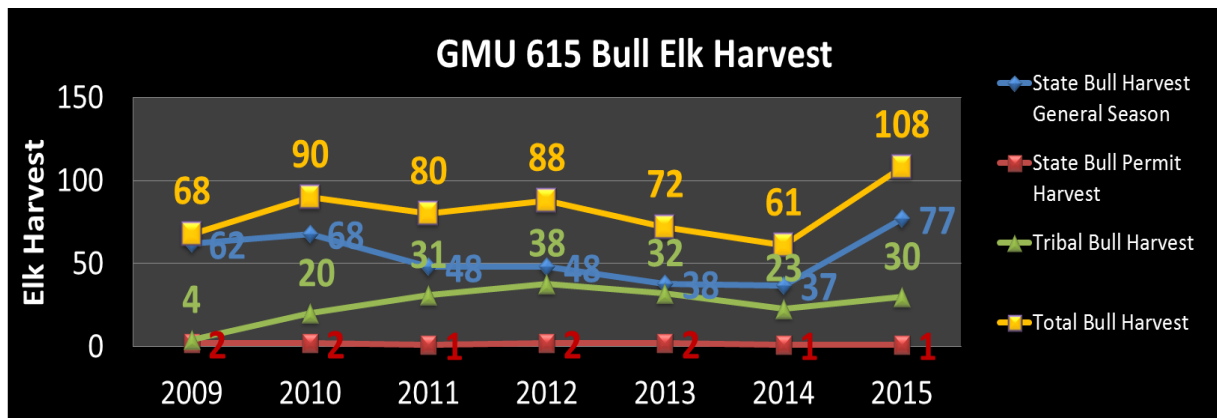


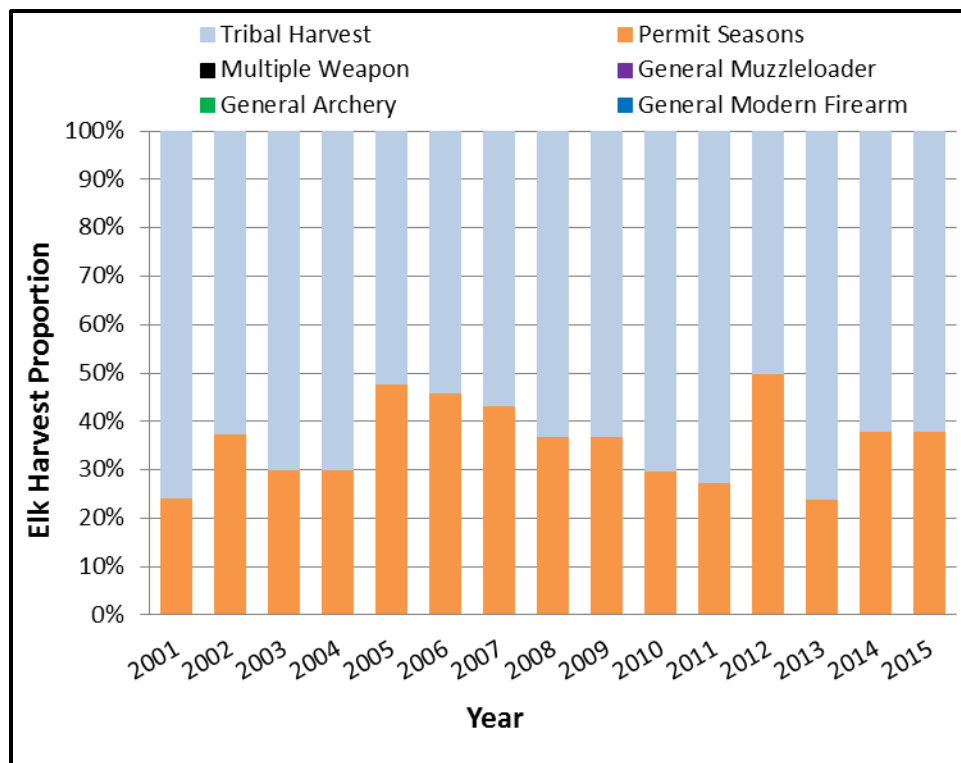
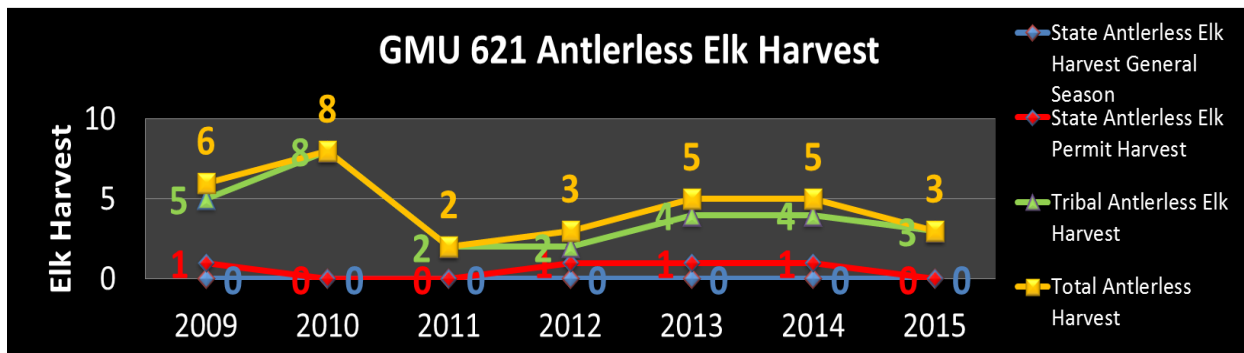
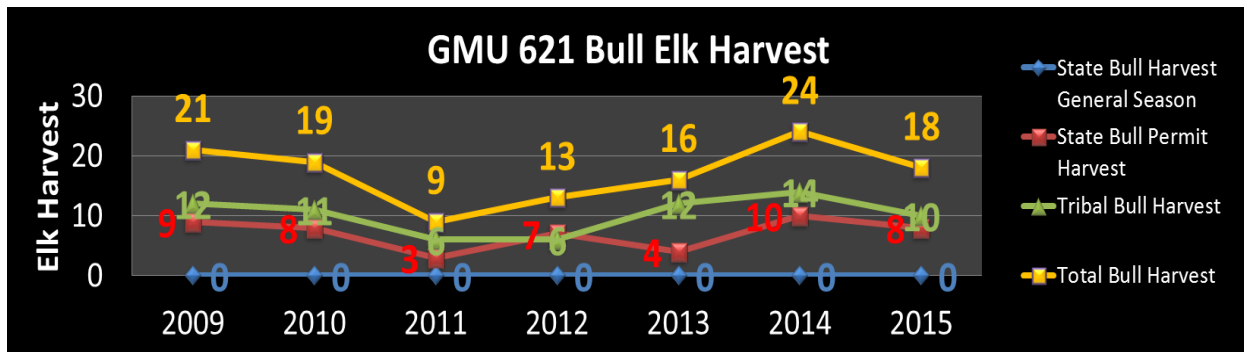


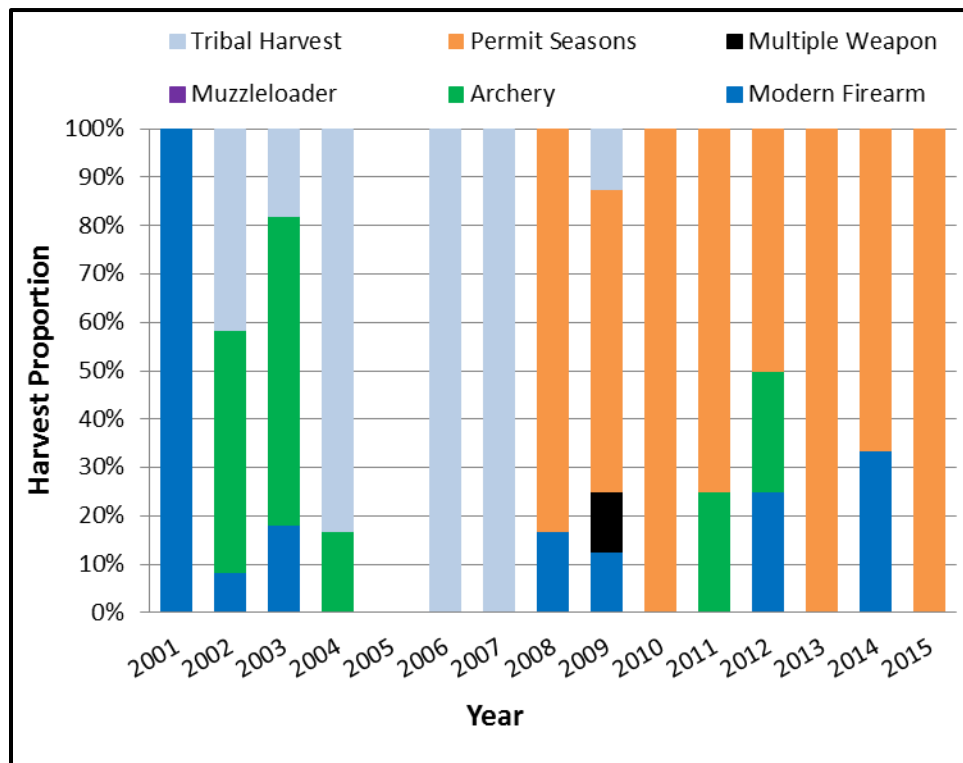
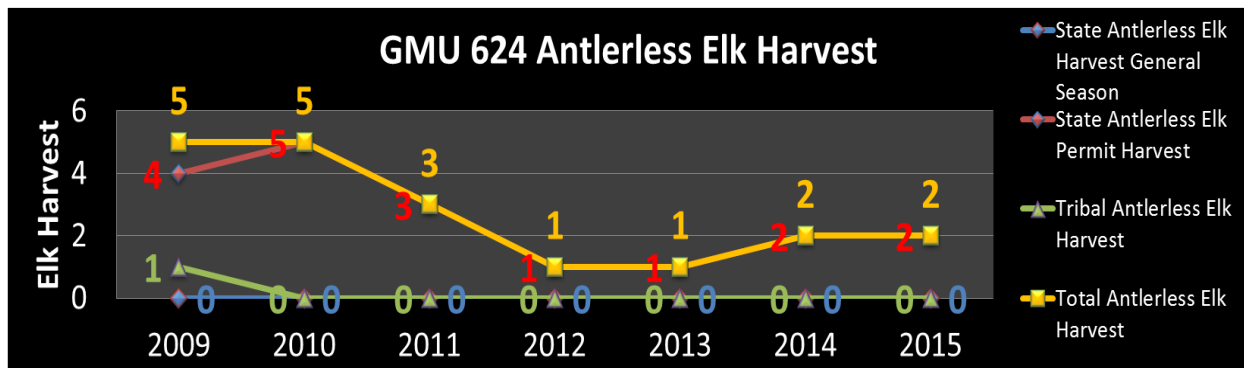
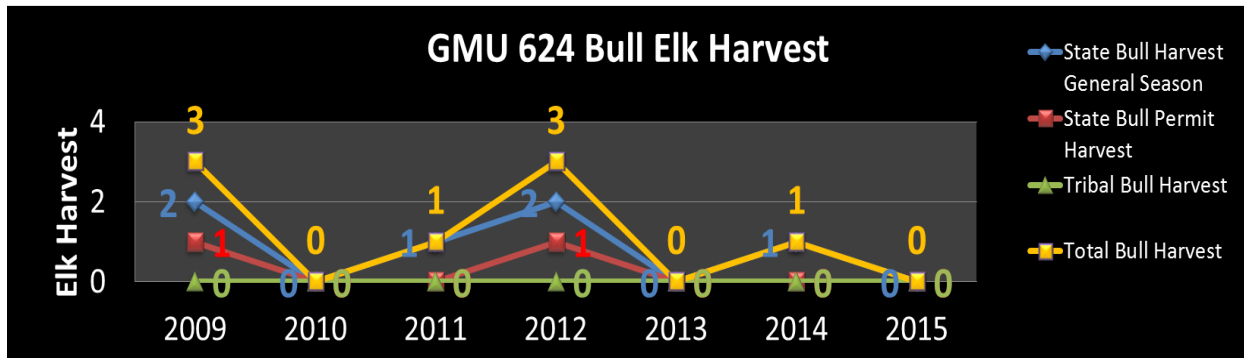












NOTABLE HUNTING CHANGES

New baiting regulations for deer and elk have been adopted. See page 86 of the [2016 Big Game Hunting Seasons & Regulations pamphlet](#).

A large portion of the DNR land in GMU 615 (Clearwater) has been in a cooperative road closure agreement with WDFW for many years. Changes to the closure system are being considered, with some changes possible for 2016. For the most current information, contact the Region 6 office.

BACTERIAL HOOF DISEASE

District 16 has not yet detected bacterial hoof disease, although it is very likely it could soon be found in this area as it spreads. Please report any observations of limping elk to the [WDFW website](#), where you can find out more about the disease.

BLACK-TAILED DEER

GENERAL INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT GOALS, AND POPULATION STATUS

Black-tailed deer monitoring is continuing to be accomplished by tracking harvest and hunting effort and gathering data on survivability, recruitment, and mortality rates using collared deer studies and aerial census methods.

District 16 wildlife biologists are actively involved in black-tailed deer research. Assignments conducted by district staff members for this research include collaring and tracking deer and locating collared deer mortalities to identify mortality causes. These links represent some of the collaring in Clallam County:

- [Researcher Cliff Rice releasing collared doe](#)
- [Black-tailed Deer- Western Washington Study using GPS collars](#)

The deer captures in District 16 were indicative of the prevalence of deer here. During the capture portion of the study, the detectability of deer was noticeably much higher east of the Elwha. According to Dr. Cliff Rice, the lead researcher, some of the largest does captured in western Washington were captured west of the Dungeness, on the lower foothills in a mix of DNR & private land.

WHICH GMU SHOULD DEER HUNTERS HUNT?

Western District 16: Western District 16 is generally sparse of deer. This area includes GMUs 601 (Hoko), 602 (Dickey), 603 (Pysht), 607 (Sol Duc), 612 (Goodman), and 615 (Clearwater). Biologist and enforcement officer observations and published reports indicate deer population numbers and density are generally down throughout the district west of the Elwha. The following link relates to current research in GMU 601: [Black-tailed Deer Research in Hoko GMU](#).

Eastern District 16: Eastern District 16 includes the northwestern portion of GMU 621 (Olympic) and the northern portion of GMU 624 (Coyle), which extend east and south into District 15 (eastern Jefferson County). Because the data on harvest is recorded by GMU, the harvest figures presented here include all of GMUs 621 & 624. The portion of District 16 east of the Elwha River has black-tailed deer populations readily observed (presumably due to higher densities), and in many areas the deer can often be observed in groups, especially at low to mid-elevations. In these areas, the deer are often perceived to be a nuisance by some property owners and agricultural operations, especially in GMU 624. Read more about Deer Area 6020 in the [Deer Areas](#) section. GMU 624 has firearm restrictions, with no centerfire or rimfire rifles allowed. For more information, see the Firearm Restrictions section.

The mid and lower elevations of GMU 621 have high densities of deer as well, with some scattered blocks of DNR ownership that offer hunting on public land. Private industrial timberlands and property managed by DNR are largely gated due to timber theft, dumping, vandalism, and other problems. However, many of these roads can be accessed on foot or with mountain bikes, giving those willing to do the work access to deer that don't get as much hunting pressure. Be sure to check with the appropriate landowner/manager and obey all posted rules and regulations.

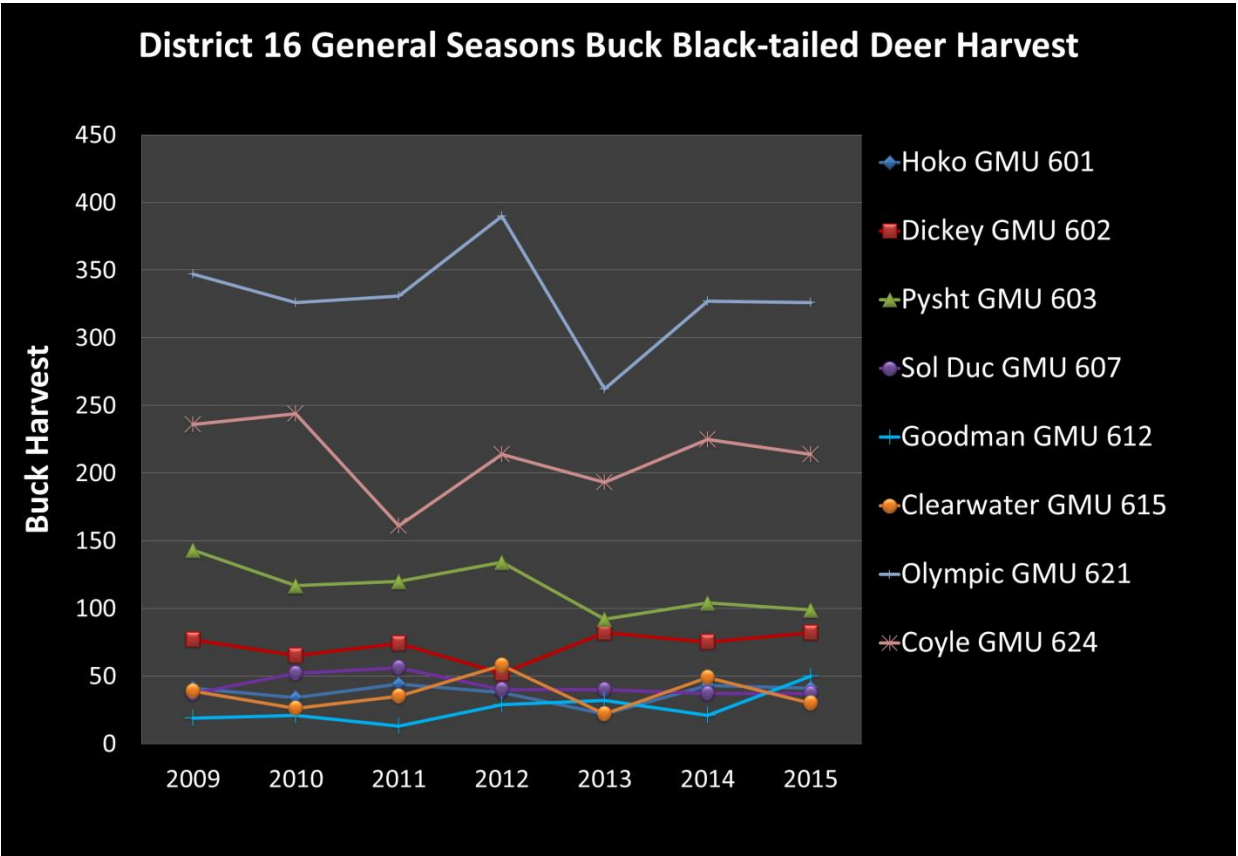
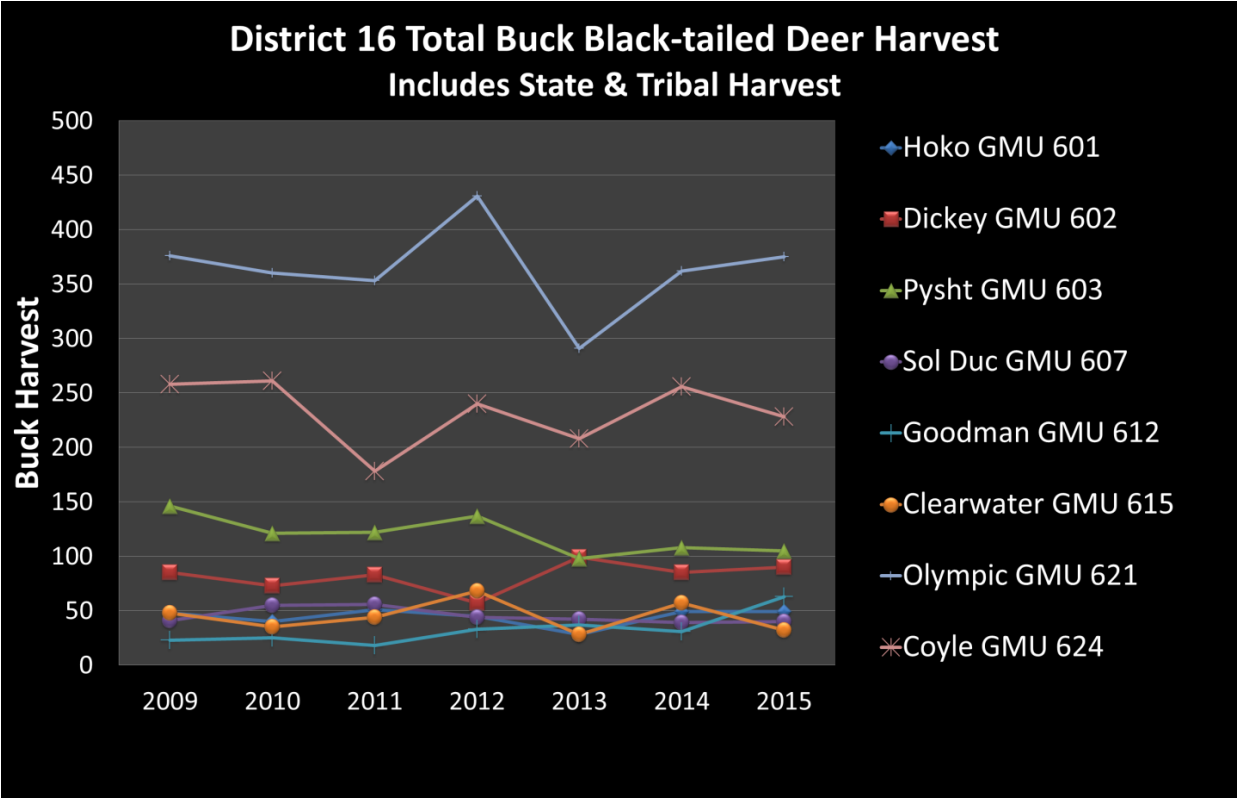
The key to a successful harvest is securing the appropriate permission to hunt on private land and scouting the area prior to the hunting season. Hunters who intend to target deer in developed areas would be well advised to check with local jurisdictions regarding firearm restrictions.

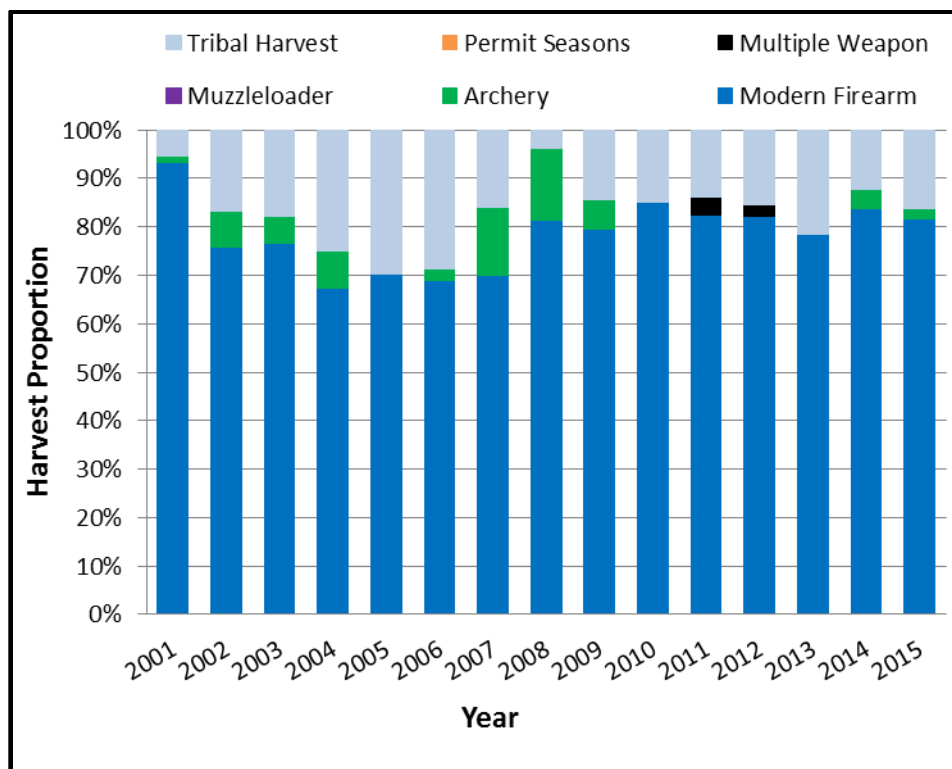
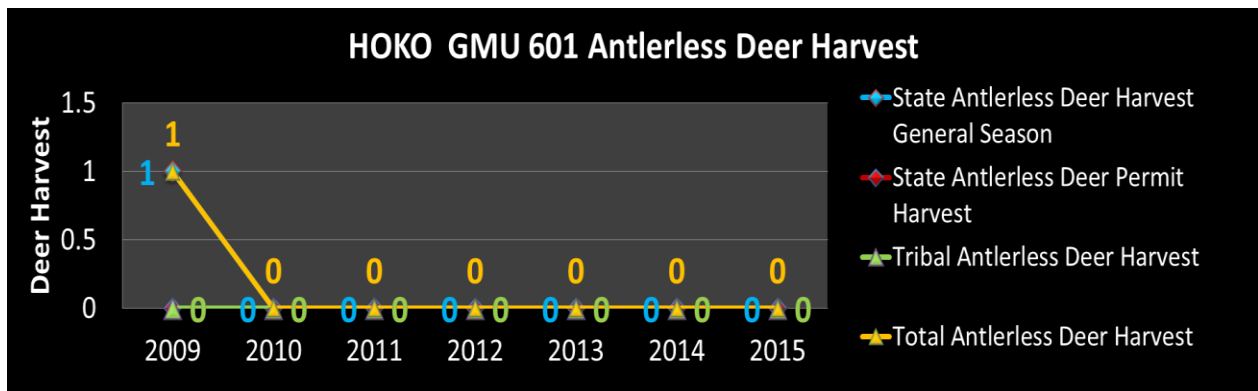
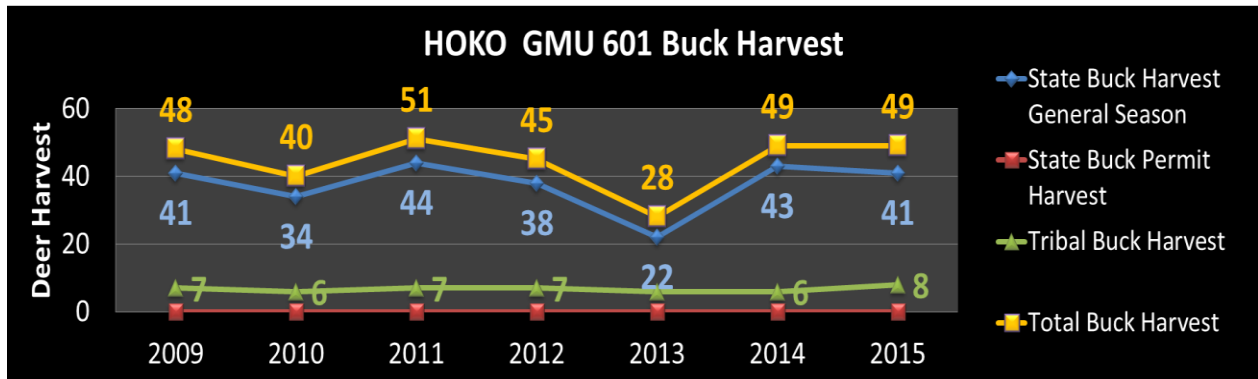
DISTRICT 16 BLACK-TAILED DEER HUNTING & HARVEST RECORDS

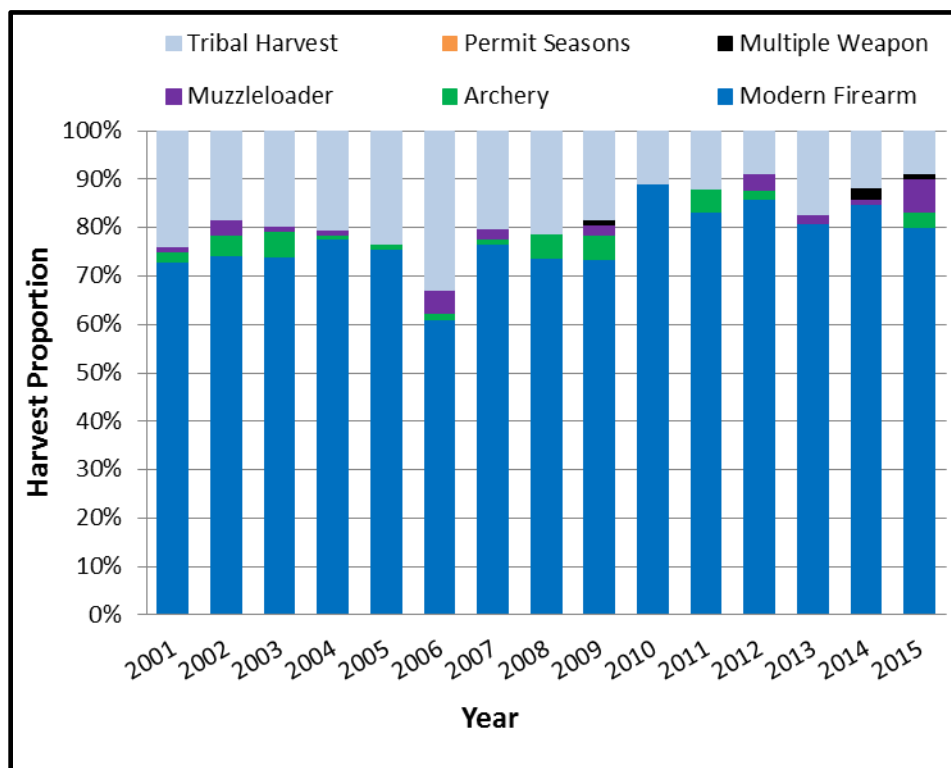
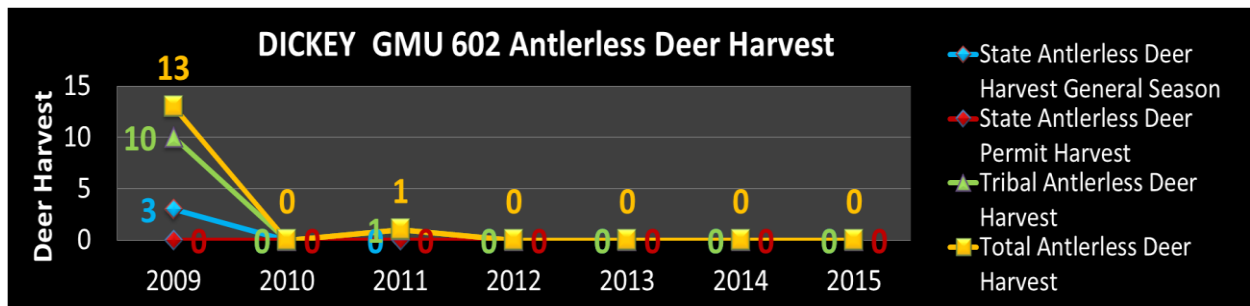
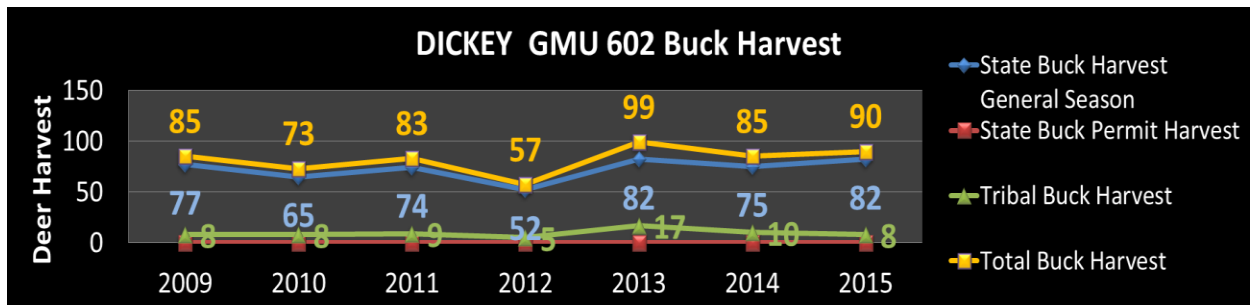
[Annual harvest reports](#) and harvest statistics for deer based on hunter reporting can be found on the WDFW website.

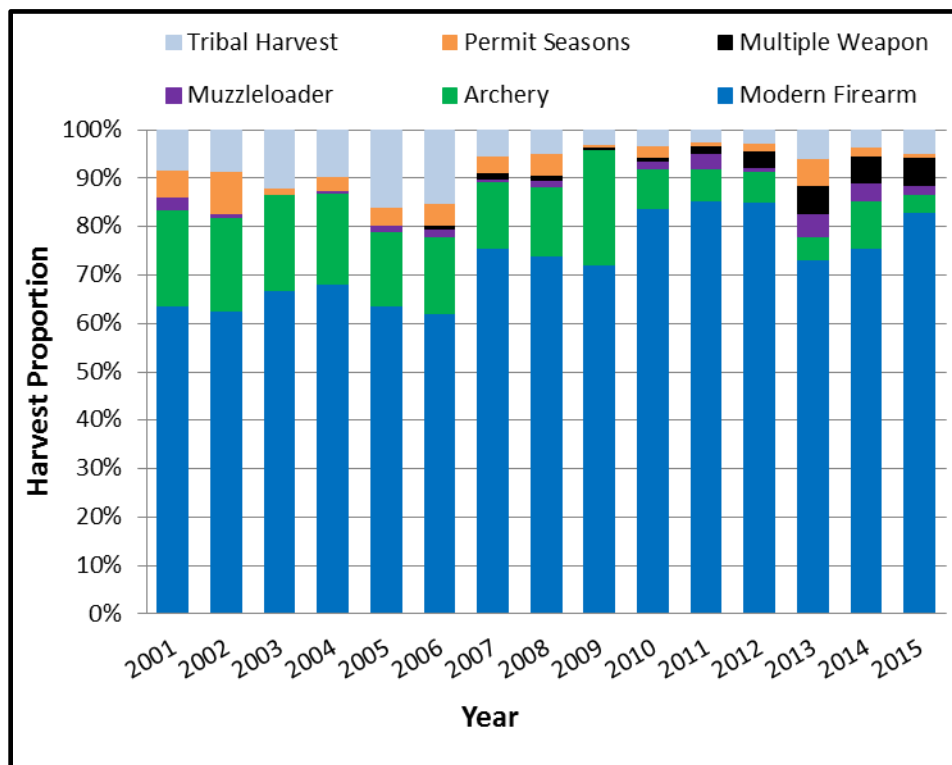
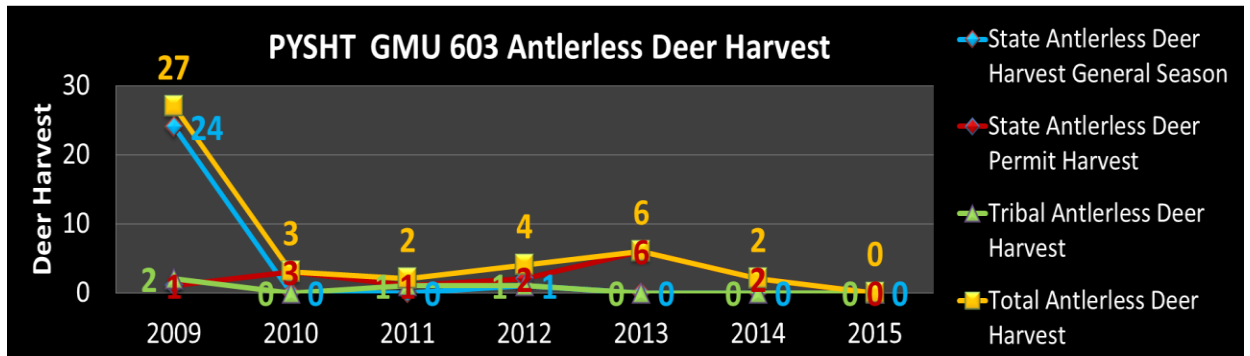
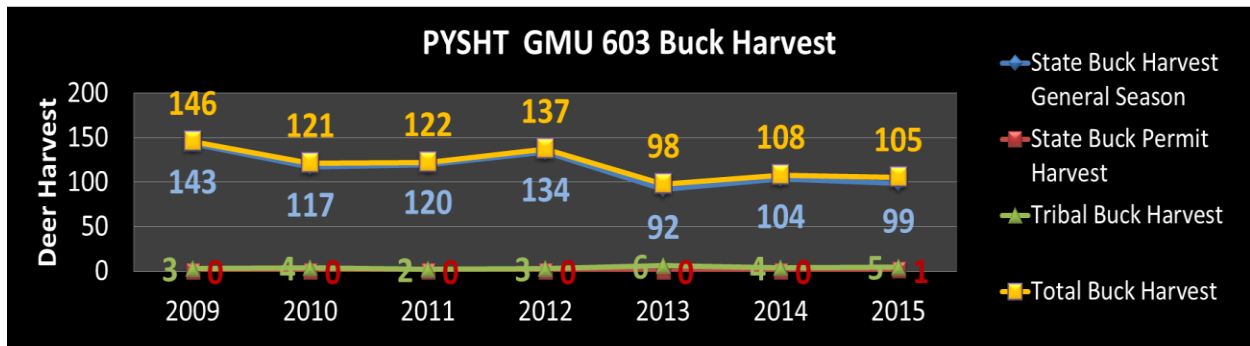
See the District 15 Hunting Prospects for more information on GMUs 621 and 624.

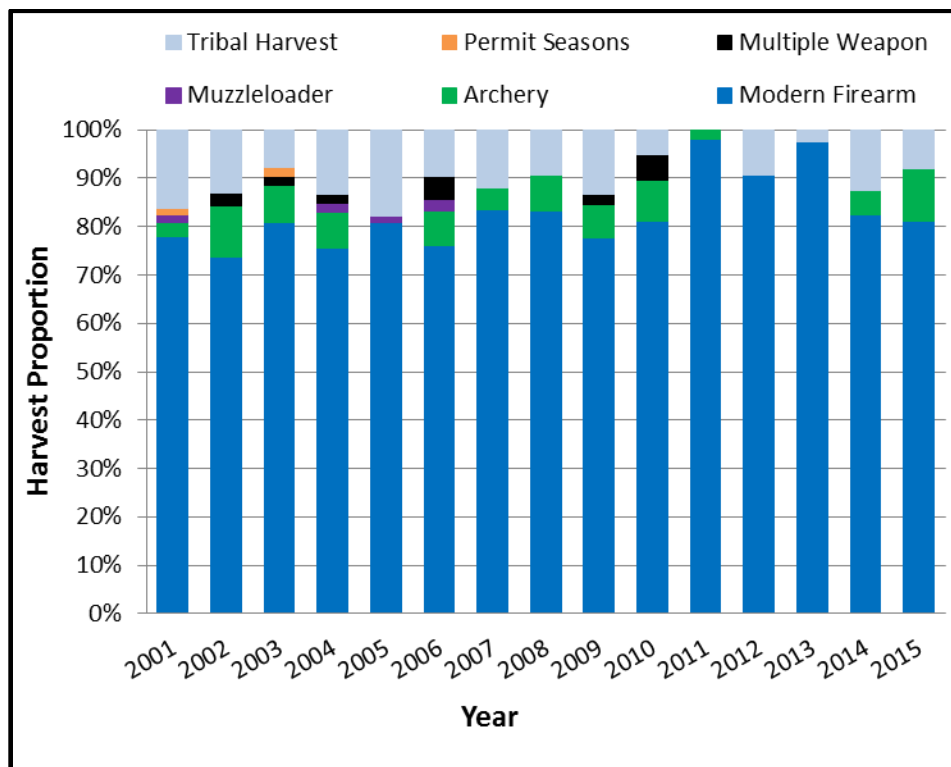
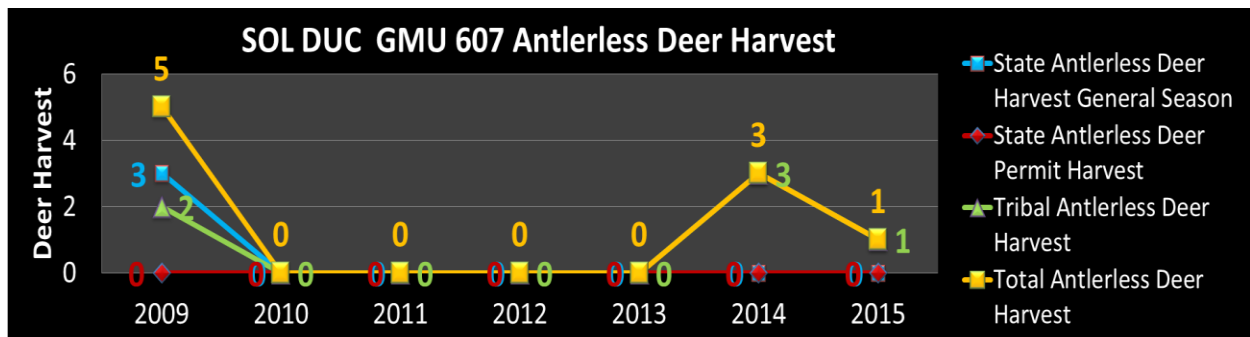
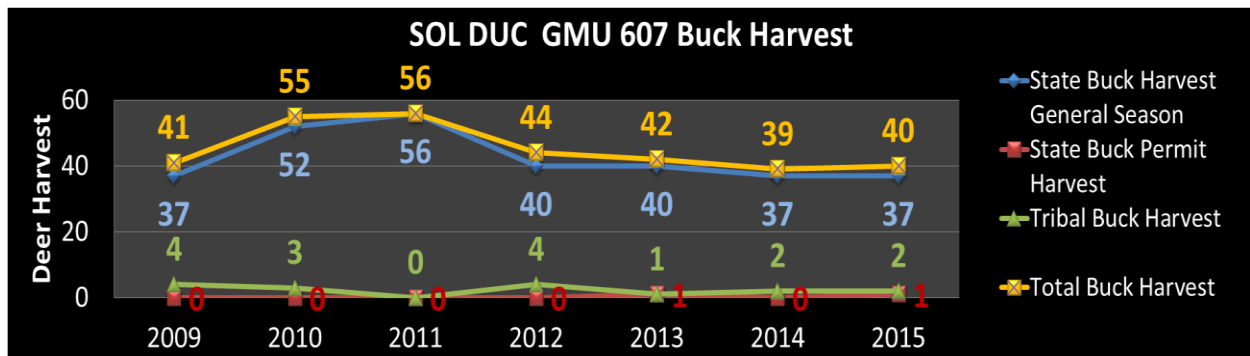
The following pages display graphs of the harvest and hunting effort, including success, in the individual GMUs within District 16. If you have any questions about this information, contact District Biologist McMillan at anita.mcmillan@dfw.wa.gov.

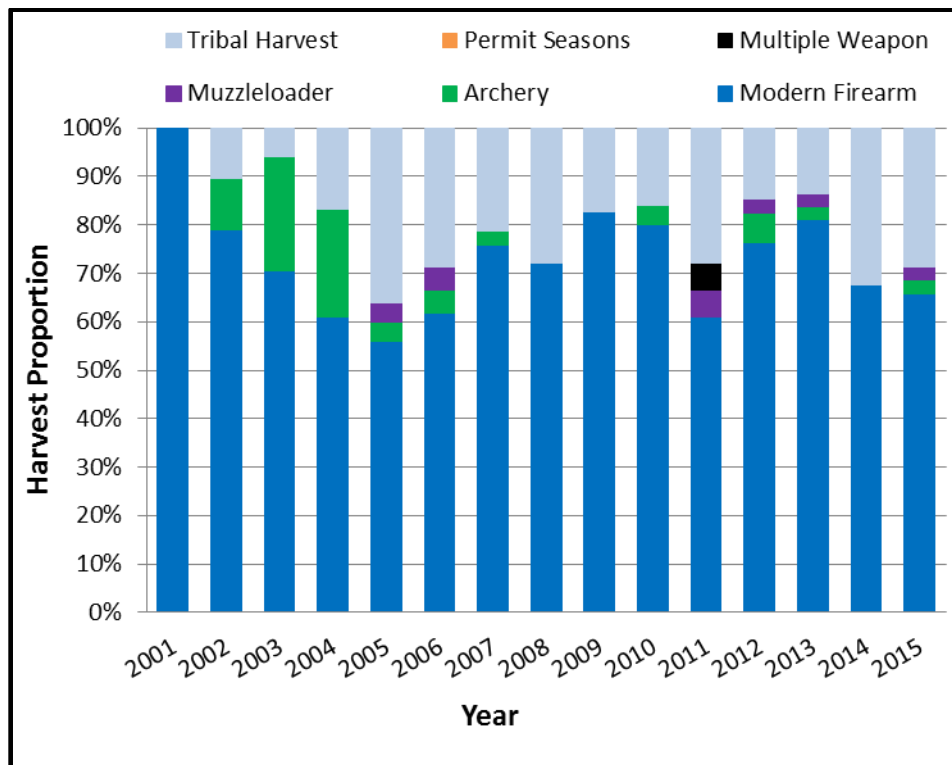
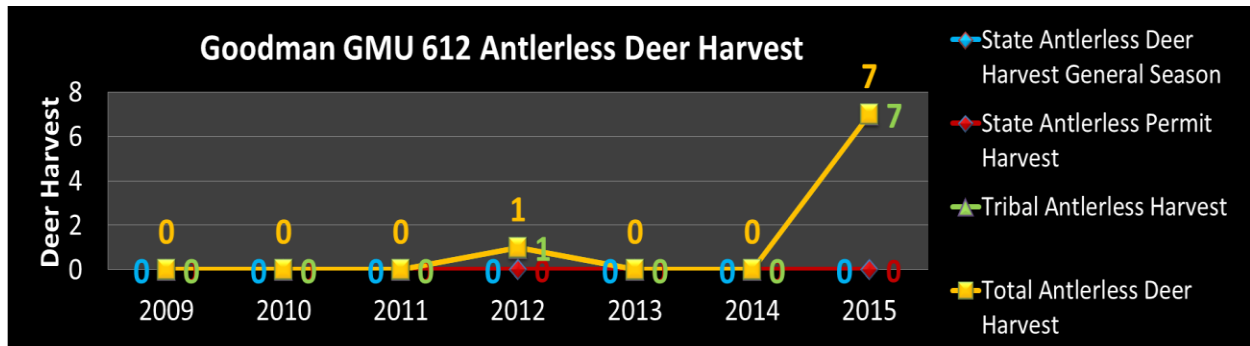
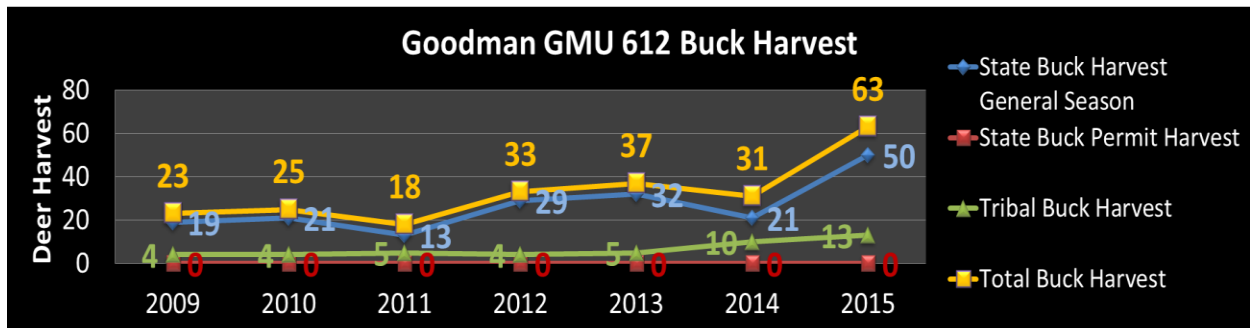


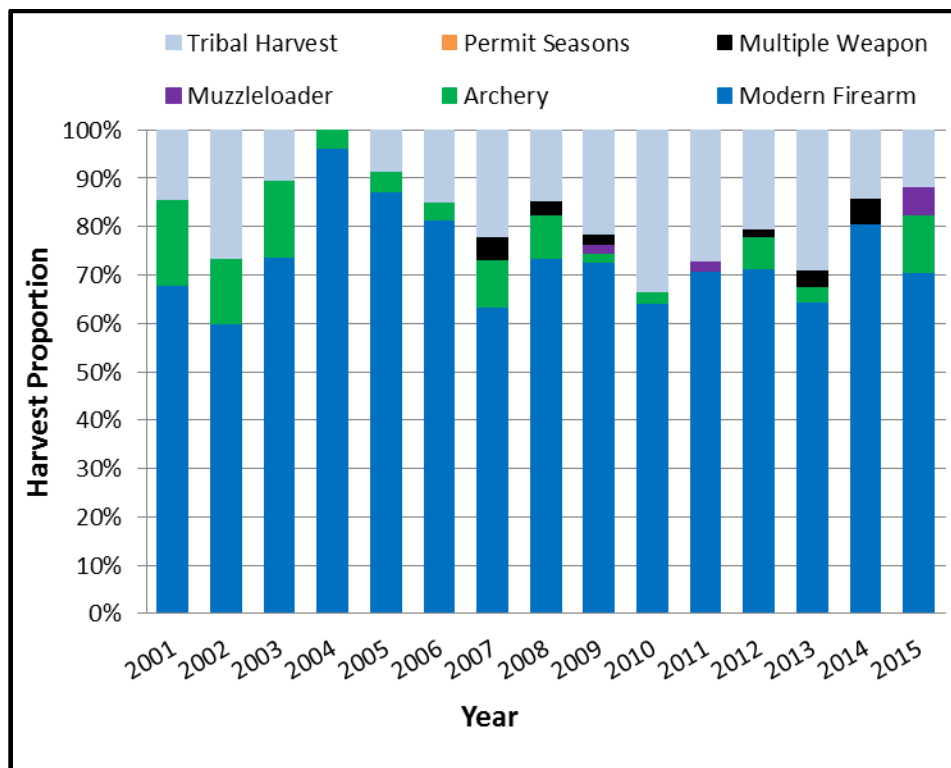
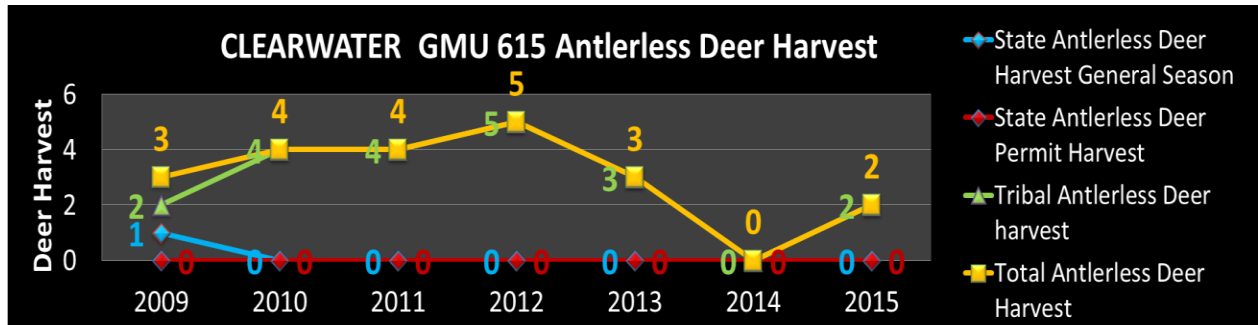
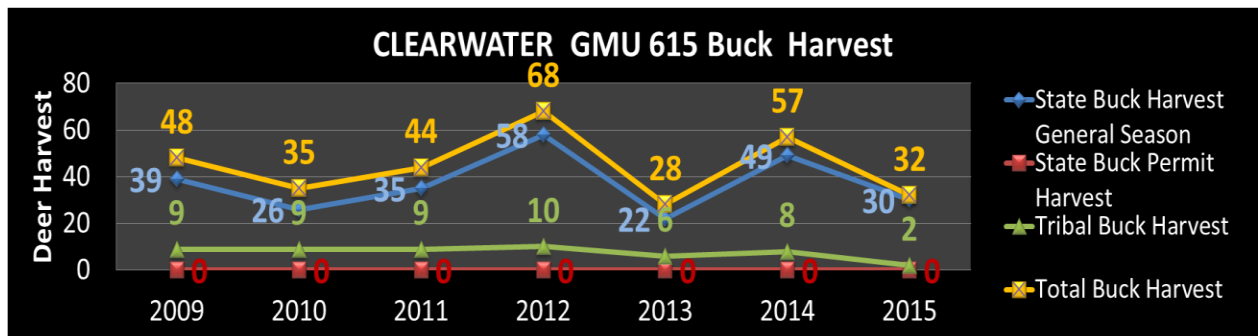


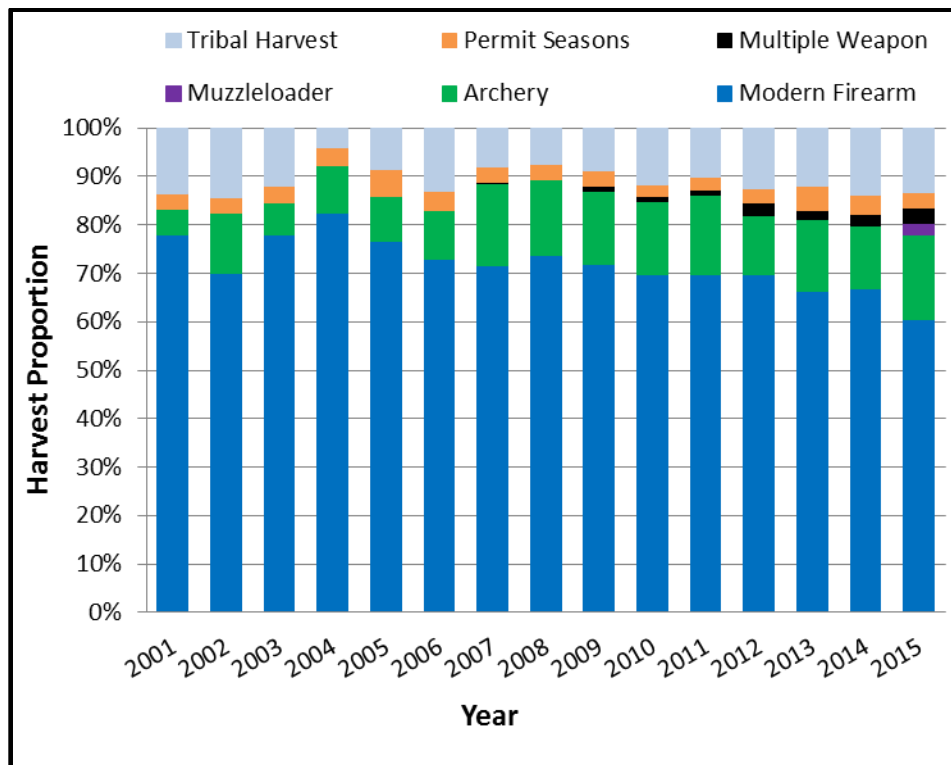
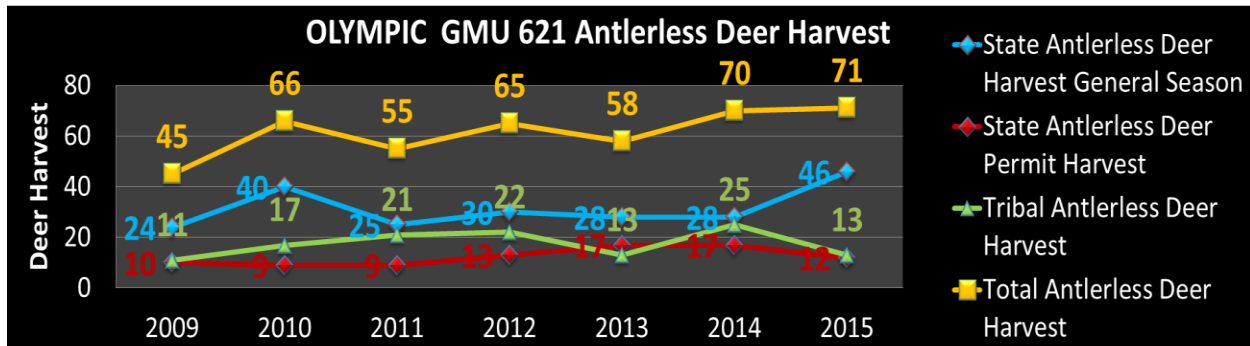
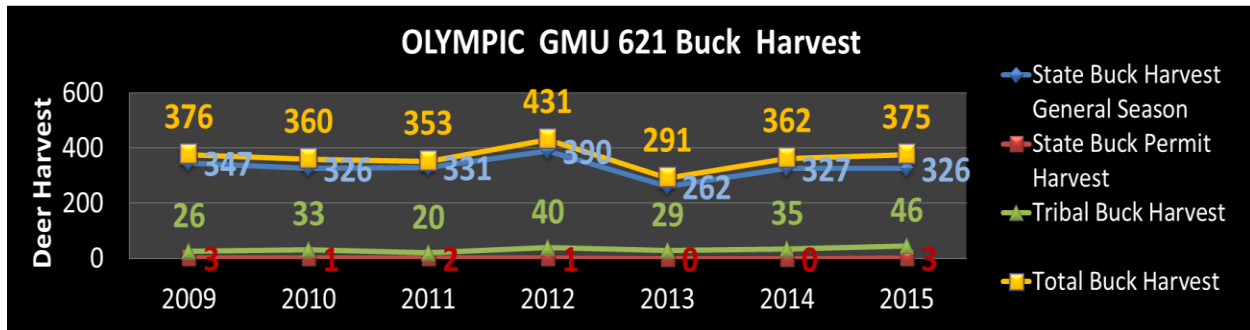


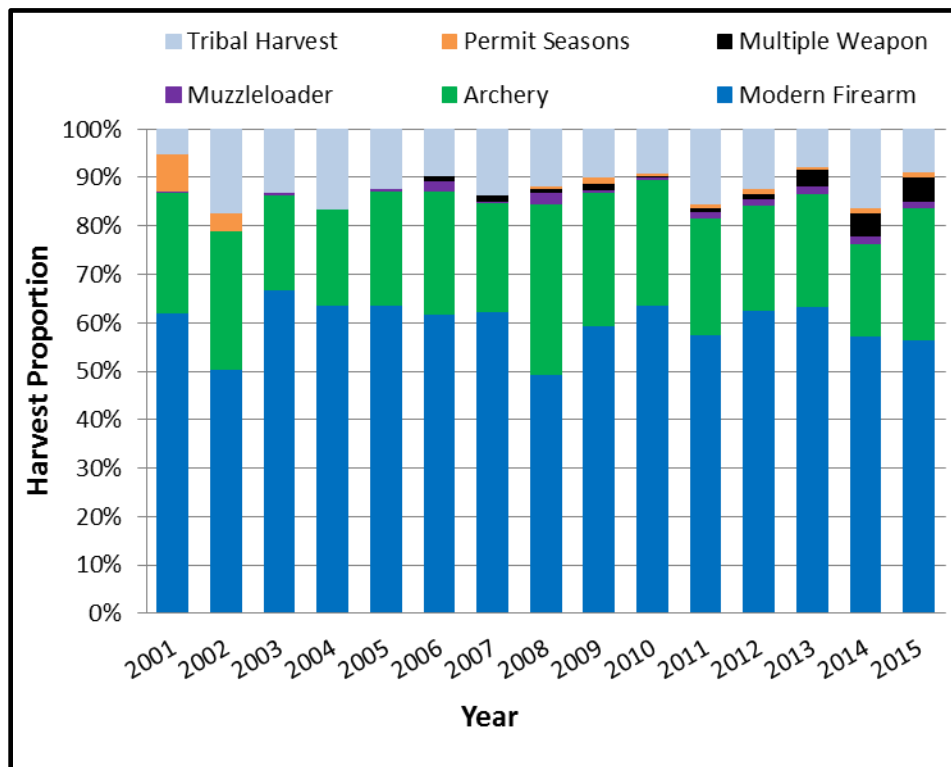
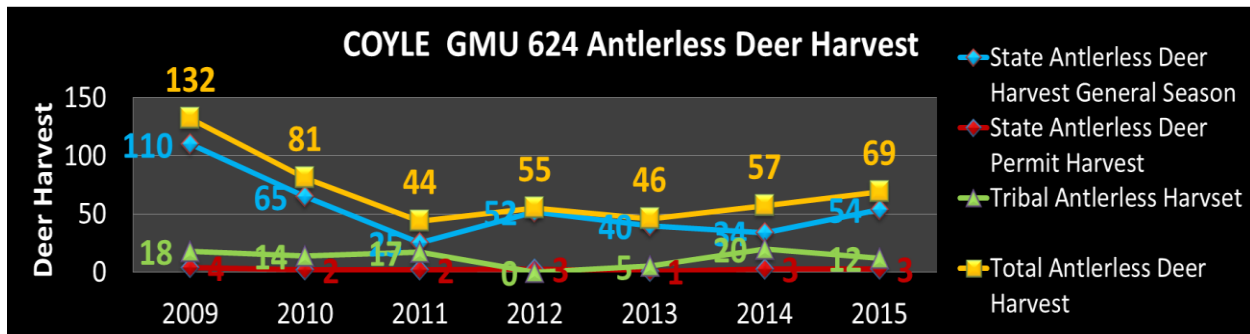
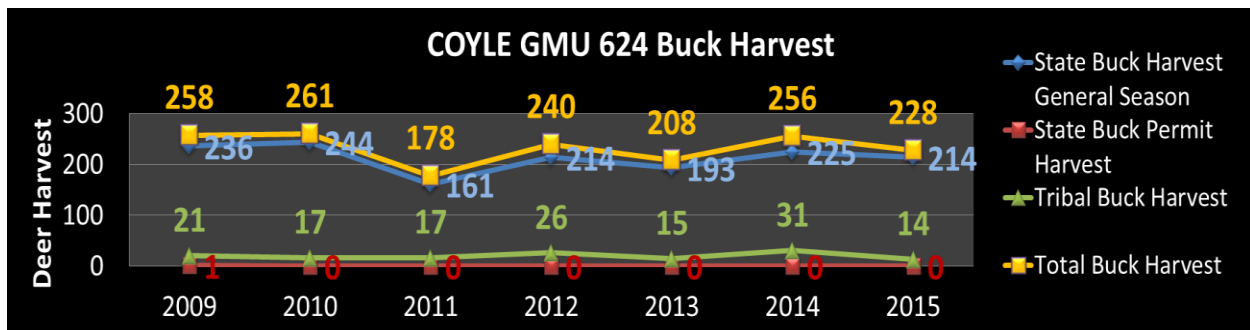












DEER AREAS

Deer Area 6020 was established years ago to allow harvest of does to help curb the trend of too many deer, encompassing the area north of Highway 101 between Port Angeles and eastern Miller Peninsula. Doe harvest is allowed within Deer Area 6020 during the general seasons. This area is primarily private land, but it is worth inquiring with landowners about hunting access. Note that much of the state land on Miller Peninsula is State Park, where hunting is not allowed. Refer to the [Firearms Restrictions](#) section if you are considering this area. The entirety of GMU 624 has firearm restriction regulations. No hunting of wildlife is allowed with centerfire or rimfire rifles.

NOTABLE HUNTING CHANGES

New baiting regulations for deer and elk have been adopted. See page 86 of the [2016 Big Game Hunting Seasons & Regulations pamphlet](#).

A large portion of the DNR land in GMU 615 has been included in a cooperative road closure agreement with WDFW for many years. Changes to the closure system are being considered, with some changes possible for 2016. For the most current information, contact the Region 6 office.

BEAR

GENERAL INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT GOALS, AND POPULATION STATUS

District 16 is located nearly entirely within the designated Coastal Black Bear Management Unit (BBMU). There is, however, a small portion of GMU 624 within the Puget Sound BBMU. This area is mostly private land with firearm restrictions. There is no spring bear permit hunt season within the district. Fall black bear hunting is allowed in all GMUs within the district. The prospects for harvesting a black bear in District 16 remain good to excellent. USFS has a website with forest health maps that identify areas where bear damage has been detected from aerial surveys. You can find the [Aerial Forest Health Detection Maps](#) online. A check of these maps may provide a person with ideas on where to scout for bear.

State DNR and federal (USFS) lands continue to provide the best availability for bear hunting within the district. Hunters are encouraged to scout for signs of bears (scat and tree bark peeling) in regenerating timber stands. Similar to deer, access behind gated roads is largely available to those willing to walk or mountain bike, and there are ample numbers of clear cuts/younger age class regeneration units that will attract bears. At higher elevations, those willing to hike in/pack out can pursue bears in classic environments where spot-and-stalk opportunities await. The use of hounds and/or bait to hunt black bear is prohibited statewide.

COUGAR

GENERAL INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT GOALS, AND POPULATION STATUS

In 2012, WDFW implemented a change in the cougar hunting season design, choosing a standard liberal season coupled with harvest guidelines. Cougar seasons will run from September 1 to December 31 for any weapon. After January 1, if the harvest guidelines have been exceeded, the season may close. Hunters should check to see if the season is still open after January 1. Check on cougar hunt area closures by phone at 1-866-364-4868 or [online](#).

See the [Washington Big Game Hunting pamphlet](#) or the WDFW website for more information regarding cougar hunting in specific GMUs within the district. Cougars are widespread in the forest lands of District 16. Areas supporting high numbers of deer and elk provide great opportunity for hunting cougar. Many of the cougars sealed in 2014 were harvested by hunters who simply encountered the cougars while actually out deer hunting. Law Enforcement officers in the district have reported low cougar hunting pressure in most GMUs in previous years.

NOTABLE CHANGES

A 2017 cougar license/tag will be required to hunt cougar in April 2017.

DUCKS

COMMON SPECIES

The majority of the waterfowl hunting opportunity in District 16 is east of Port Angeles, centered in the Lower Dungeness Basin. The basin has a high density of wintering waterfowl and holds about 7 percent of the western Washington breeding waterfowl population.

Keep in mind that trumpeter swan numbers have increased in the Dungeness valley in the past five years and they have been documented near the river mouth. All waterfowl hunters are encouraged to know all identification features for trumpeter swans and snow geese. It is illegal to shoot trumpeter swans and snow geese hunters should be aware that a special snow goose hunting authorization and harvest record card is required.

CONCENTRATION AREAS

District biologists have focused on documenting areas with high waterfowl concentrations in Clallam County during the last several years, mapping high use areas during breeding and wintering periods.

The Dungeness Basin has proven to be an area of consistently high waterfowl concentrations, even amidst the scattered developments.

Concentrations of waterfowl in freshwater habitats diminish drastically west of the Elwha and Lyre Rivers.

POPULATION STATUS

Midwinter waterfowl survey counts in District 16 showed an increase from 11,611 in 2013 to 18,379 in 2014, representing 2 percent of all waterfowl counted in the state. Midwinter populations include resident and migratory populations. The links below provide more information on the population status.

- [Trends in Duck Breeding Populations 1955-2015](#)
- [USFWS Waterfowl Population Status 2015](#)

The [Four Flyways April 2012 Updated Map](#) shows the flyways.



Four North American migratory bird flyways

The local Olympic Mountain snowpack was extremely low during winter of 2014-2015, adding to ongoing drought conditions. Weather patterns continue to be hotter and dryer. Water levels this fall may be low again, affecting wetlands used for wintering habitat. The greatest factor influencing brood production in the district continues to be loss of habitat to development and increasing human disturbance. Waterfowl numbers are expected to remain moderate in District 16.

Breeding population trends in Dungeness were showing an increase through 2014, then a drop in 2015. In 2011, new methods were adopted for western Washington breeding waterfowl surveys, shifting from ground counts to conducting aerial surveys. The Dungeness counts show an increasing total for surveys from 2010 (total ducks = 3974) until 2014 where total ducks = 7,518, followed by a moderate drop during 2015, with a total duck count of 5,466. The Dungeness count was 9 percent of the total breeding ducks in Washington in 2015. Washington breeding waterfowl population estimates for 2015 are found in the [2015 Game Status and Trend Report](#), on pages 241-279.

HARVEST TRENDS AND 2016 PROSPECTS

There is limited access to where you can hunt waterfowl in District 16. Some locals in the western portion of the district conduct jump shooting in pools and side channels of the west end rivers, along with other small ponds and flooded gravel pit areas. In 2015, there were 5,815 ducks harvested by 379 hunters in Clallam County, and 2,278 ducks harvested by 210 hunters in Jefferson County.

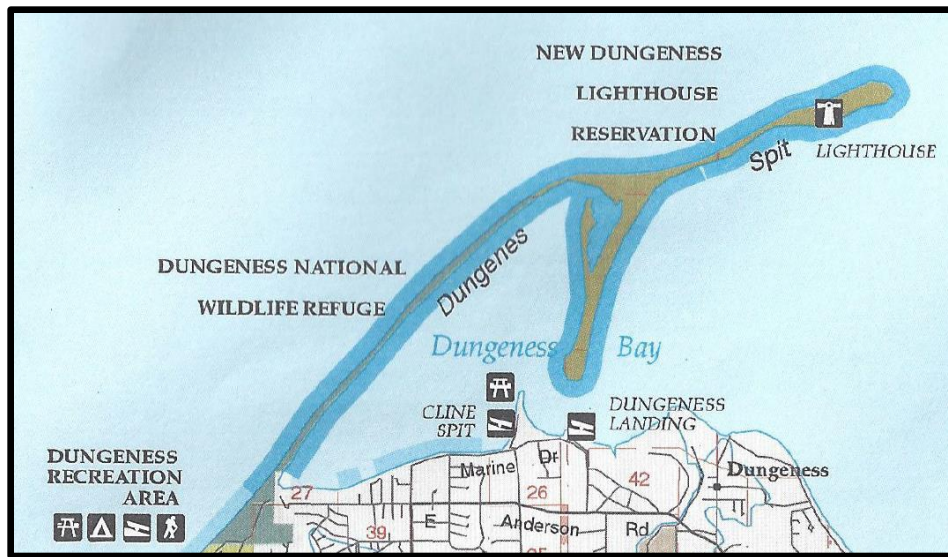
HUNTING TECHNIQUES

Public saltwater hunting opportunities are more numerous than freshwater options in District 16, albeit more difficult in many ways. The regulations and landownerships, including tideland ownerships, make it necessary for the hunter to have a good plan. Another complication includes the US Fish & Wildlife Service Dungeness Wildlife Refuge. Hunting is not allowed on the refuge and some of the refuge boundaries are difficult to determine in the field.

***IMPORTANT INFORMATION IF YOU HUNT FROM A BOAT** – When hunting from a boat, hunters should ensure the boat anchor is not down on private tidelands without permission. Boat hunters must not go onto private land without permission to retrieve any waterfowl shot. However, hunters should be aware they could run the risk of violating the wastage law if they do not retrieve the waterfowl they've shot. Therefore, it is essential hunters be aware of property ownership when hunting from a boat.

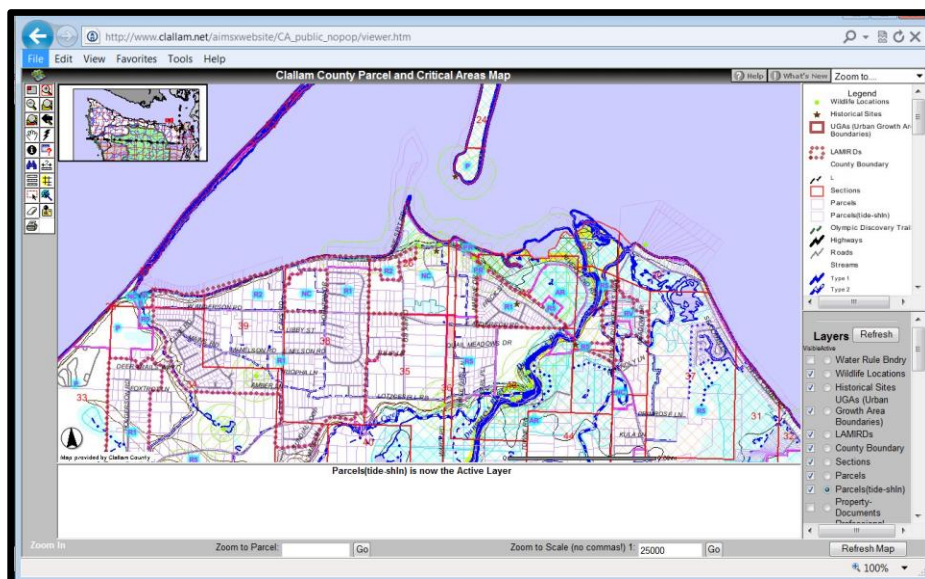
Shoreline/Tidelands: There are some private landowners who allow limited hunting access along the saltwater shoreline. Typically, local signage refers to a phone number or contact information, and in some cases the signage spells out the conditions of access. Because these vary from year to year, the hunter must make a tour of the area and find out the current arrangements. Hunters should make sure they will have the ability to retrieve ducks, keeping in mind the ownerships where they have permission to hunt and the adjacent ownership where they don't.

Tideland ownership (state or private) can be found on the DNR maps referred to later in this prospects report. Assessors' maps can be retrieved on the internet using these websites. For Clallam County, tideland ownership can be retrieved, but Jefferson County does not display tideland parcel ownership.



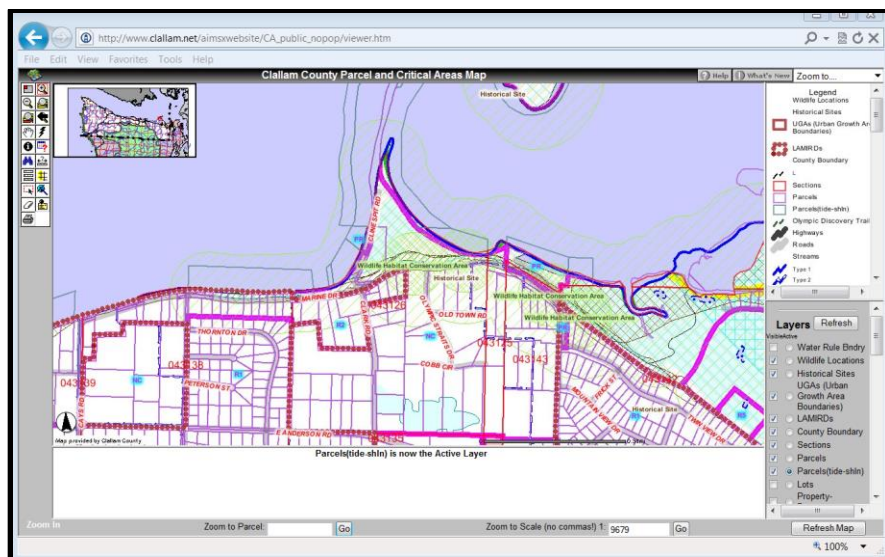
Example of portion of DNR map displaying public tidelands in blue

Clallam County links: <http://www.clallam.net/maps/> or http://www.clallam.net/aimsxwebsite/CA_public_nopop/viewer.htm



Make sure you have the parcel (tide-shoreline) layer checked and active circle dotted, and the scale set at 1:25,000 or less.

Use the icons on the top left to zoom in and choose the lightning bolt icon, then select tideland parcels and click on them. The information on ownership will come up.



Using these records, along with the DNR maps referenced at the end of this prospects document, you can ensure you are aware of land ownership, whether on the shoreline or in a boat over tidelands.

Jefferson County links: <http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/idms/mapserver.shtml>

Maps show ownership of parcels, with the exception of tideland ownership. Again, you could use the DNR maps reference (shown above) to identify state tidelands.

PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Most all freshwater waterfowl hunting areas in the Dungeness Basin are on private lands. Public land hunting opportunities include the newly established Lower Dungeness Unit at the mouth of the Dungeness River. Some hunters find hunting opportunities in the near-shore areas of bays and along the shoreline of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, both on foot and by boat. Hunting violations remain a concern on small water bodies and along the saltwater shorelines in the district. Hunters are urged to obey all state and county regulations at sites near residential areas to avoid potential future closures. Be sure to check the 2015 Migratory Waterfowl Regulation pamphlet for additional requirements before hunting sea ducks (long-tailed ducks, scoter, harlequin, and goldeneye) in western Washington. The local seaduck populations have been studied for many years and the sea duck management strategies publication has been made available.

North Olympic Wildlife Area includes the [Lower Dungeness Unit](#). This unit contains multiple disjoined parcels located about five miles north of Sequim. Seventy-five acres of this unit can be hunted north of East Anderson Road and west of the Dungeness River. Public access is supported by a small parking area, an information kiosk containing site rules, and a restroom. There are freshwater ponds located in the main field below the parking area, but the main hunting area for this unit is located on the tidelands of Dungeness Bay, adjacent to the river's mouth. A variety of dabbling ducks, diving ducks, and geese have been documented at the unit.

Hunters are required to walk into the main hunting area. Rivers End Road is a privately owned road and cannot be used to access the tidelands. It is approximately a half mile to reach the main hunting areas on this unit. Hunting is permitted only on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays throughout the regular waterfowl season. A 15 shotgun shell restriction is in effect for this unit. Designated blind locations for first-come, first-served use will be established for this season. Detailed information will be posted on the kiosk and on the Lower Dungeness Unit webpage. The hunting area along the tidelands is privately owned and is managed by WDFW through a temporary land use agreement. Misuse of this area may result in the loss of future public access.

Useful Links:

- [Lower Dungeness Wildlife Area](#)
- [Lower Dungeness-River's End Site Hunting Rules](#)
- The [Dungeness Recreation Area](#) County Park no longer allows hunting

GEESE AND BRANT

COMMON SPECIES

Typical hunter participation for Canada geese occurred in Clallam County in 2015, with 118 hunters harvesting 331 Canada geese. Thirty-one hunters in Jefferson County harvested 24 Canada geese.

Brant: No season is open in District 16 for brant.

POPULATION STATUS

The population of Canada geese on the east side of the district has been increasing in recent years.

HARVEST TRENDS AND 2016 PROSPECTS

Clallam County goose harvest averaged about 8 percent of Region 6's entire goose harvest in 2015, a drop from 12 percent the previous year. The harvest information is shown in the [Washington State Migratory Waterfowl & Upland Game Seasons](#), on page 32.

HUNTING TECHNIQUES

The small acreages and patchy ownership makes pass shooting inadvisable. Local hunters were quite successful in previous seasons using a decoy spread and blinds. Permission to hunt on private lands would need to be obtained and all [firearm regulations](#) must be followed. Many agricultural fields have residential properties in the vicinity, so hunters must be aware of all safety concerns.

PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Most of the hunt opportunities are on private agricultural lands containing barley in GMU 624.

FOREST GROUSE

SPECIES AND GENERAL HABITAT CHARACTERISTICS

Hunting within any of the forest lands throughout District 16 should offer good opportunities for harvesting grouse. Prime forest grouse hunting may be found on DNR and USFS lands within the district. The harvest of grouse in Clallam County rivals all other counties within Region 6.

Ruffed and sooty (formerly classified as blue) grouse are present throughout public and private forest lands in District 16. The prospects for harvesting sooty grouse go up with increasing elevation. Hunters can expect the greatest success along trails and ridgelines above 2,000-3,000 feet, within timber stands with huckleberry, grouse whortleberry, and other forage plants. Hunters targeting ruffed grouse should focus on elevations below 2,500 feet, particularly in riparian forest habitats, early seral forests (5-25 years old), and deciduous-conifer mixed forest types.

HARVEST TRENDS AND 2016 PROSPECTS

Participation in grouse hunting in District 16 had declined since 2009, when Clallam County harvest peaked at 6,350 by 1,202 hunters and Jefferson County harvest had 3,839 grouse by 1,502 hunters. Harvest totals last year (2015) for Clallam County were 3,621 grouse harvested by 1,107 hunters. Jefferson County harvest was 1,173 grouse by 739 hunters in 2015.

Habitat conditions certainly play a role, but spring weather, and its effect on young, is also a huge factor in grouse production and hunting prospects for the fall. Despite a wet March this year, April and May weather should have been favorable to grouse broods, hopefully leading to a productive grouse hunting season.

PHEASANTS

District 16 does not have viable populations of wild pheasant and there are no longer any pheasant release sites in the district. Due to changes in management direction from Clallam County Parks & Recreation, hunting pheasants at the Dungeness Recreation Area ended with the 2012 season.

For information on current pheasant release sites, check this link to the [Western Washington Pheasant Release Program](#).

QUAIL

There is a fair abundance of California (valley) quail in the eastern portion of District 16. They are quite common in the Dungeness Valley, but hunting opportunities can be challenging due to predominately private ownership. Quail, like the deer, thrive in the Dungeness habitats that include a mix of open grass, shrublands, and forest. Some quail hunting opportunities can be found on public lands located in the lower foothills in clearcuts or any early successional habitats. The estimated number of quail harvested in District 16 was 164 birds in 2015.

TURKEYS

District 16 is not managed for wild turkeys and the species remains relatively rare here. Some turkeys were transplanted in the Dungeness drainage 30-40 years ago, but there is no harvestable population present. WDFW receives occasional reports of individuals or small groups of turkeys within GMU 603. They are likely domestic turkeys that escaped from a farm that raised turkeys in the Joyce area. There are basically no prospects for hunting wild turkeys in District 16.

BAND-TAILED PIGEONS

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Band-tailed pigeons were quite abundant in District 16 in years past. Local hunters reported seeing clouds of them in drainages, such as McDonald Creek, on the east side of the district back in the 1950s.

HARVEST TRENDS AND 2016 PROSPECTS

The reported harvest of band-tails in this district is relatively low, but the resource is available throughout the district in good numbers. WDFW Enforcement officers remind hunters that they must have all required hunting licenses, along with the special migratory bird authorization and the band-tailed pigeon harvest card. It is mandatory to report all harvest to improve management of the species. More information about population monitoring and harvests is available in the following report: [2015 USFWS Band-tailed Pigeon Population Status](#).

WHERE AND HOW TO HUNT BAND-TAILED PIGEONS

Band-tailed pigeons are most prevalent in the district along marine estuaries, shorelines, and forest roads where they forage on berries. Hunters are encouraged to search for areas with elderberry and cascara present. Band-tailed pigeons often congregate around these food sources.

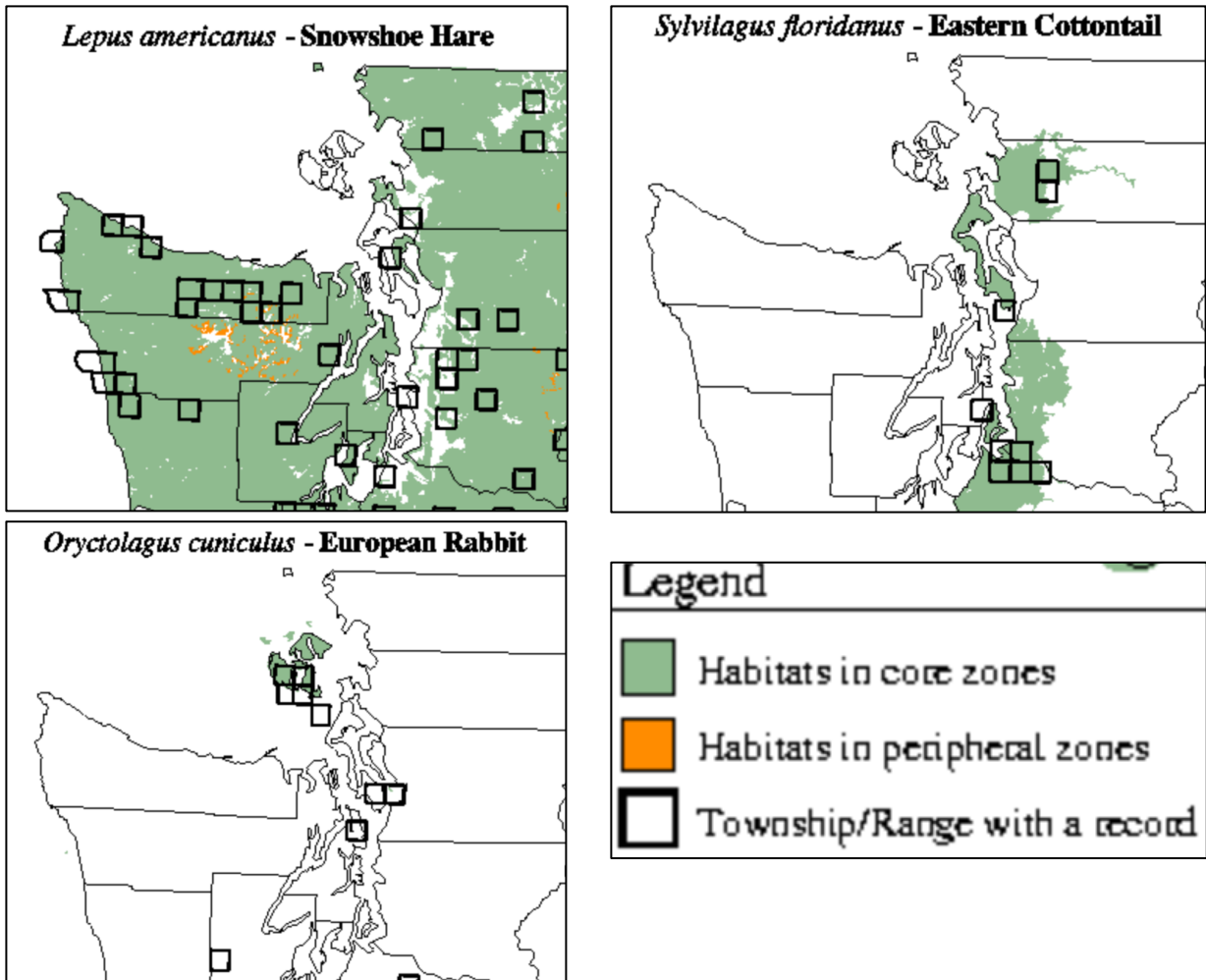
OTHER SMALL GAME SPECIES

Mourning Dove: District 16 has not been a major dove hunting area, although eastern Clallam County has lots of doves. In the last few years, participation has increased, with a report of 16 hunters harvesting 176 doves in 2013. The estimated harvest for 2015 was 67 doves harvested by 13 hunters in Clallam County. No participation in Jefferson County was reported in 2015. The dove population status report can be found at [2015 USFWS Mourning Dove Population Status](#).

Snowshoe Hare & Cottontail Rabbit: Most all of the rabbits encountered on the Olympic Peninsula will be snowshoe hare (see range maps below). Snowshoe hare are readily observed along forested roads in the western half of District 16, and will be found throughout the district, usually along forested edges. Annual district harvest is erratic, ranging from zero (~450 hunt days, 2011 report) to over 300 (~800-1200 hunt days, 2005 & 2008 report). The opportunity is always there, with a harvest per unit effort expected to range between 0.25-0.70/day. More information on the snowshoe hare can be found at the following links:

- [Snowshoe Hare - Canadian Wildlife Federation](#)

- http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/maps/wa/mammals/WA_snowshoe_hare.html
- http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/maps/wa/mammals/WA_eastern_cottontail.html
- http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/maps/wa/mammals/WA_european_rabbit.html
- http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/maps/wa/mammals/WA_nuttalls_cottontail.html



TRIBAL HUNTING

District 16 is within the ceded area of numerous treaty tribes on the Olympic Peninsula. WDFW and tribes cooperatively manage wildlife populations. Tribal hunting often occurs concurrent with WDFW hunting seasons. Tribes set their own seasons and bag limits. Tribal Enforcement personnel are responsible for ensuring tribal hunting regulations, which may differ from state regulations, are followed. More information about tribal hunting can be found on the [WDFW website](#).

Tribal big game harvest reports are available at [Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Big Game Harvest Reports](#).

FIREARM & WEAPON RESTRICTIONS

These diverse mixtures of ownerships and jurisdictions also present different combinations of firearm restriction regulations and ordinances. The three main firearm restriction regulations most relevant to hunters are the following:

- WDFW – “The portion of the Coyle (GMU 624) in Clallam County.” Page 90 in [Washington's 2015 Big Game Hunting Seasons & Regulations](#) pamphlet.
- Clallam County Code – [Clallam County Firearms Discharge Restrictions](#)
- Jefferson County Code – [Jefferson County NO SHOOTING AREAS](#)

MAJOR PUBLIC LANDS

GENERAL ACCESS – PUBLIC

With mixed ownership comes a complexity of access rules by various governmental and private entities. Make sure you have acquired the necessary permits to drive on public and private land in the area you decide to explore.

Here are some public access permits to be aware of and that you may need depending on your destination.



[Discover Pass](#) for state parks, DNR, & WDFW



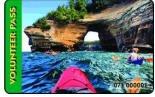
[Federal Agency-Interagency Annual Pass](#) for US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish & Wildlife Service



[Federal Agency-Interagency Annual Military Pass](#) for US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish & Wildlife Service



[Federal Agency Interagency Senior Pass](#) for US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish & Wildlife Service



Federal Agency Interagency Volunteer Pass for US Forest Service, Bureau of

Land Management, US Fish & Wildlife Service

The interagency passes include access on National Park Service and Bureau of Reclamation ownership. Keep in mind that many public lands on the Olympic Peninsula are not open to hunting, including Olympic National Park, most all Washington State Parks, & Clallam County Parks.

PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL FORESTLANDS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Private timberlands have various access and road closure procedures, so it is prudent to determine current ownership for a target location and the requirements to obtain permission to hunt. One company that has retained a consistent access program over the years is Merrill & Ring Pysht Tree Farm in GMU 603. Their permits provide access during most (but not all) hunting seasons. Several other forest industry ownerships have other access systems in place. Hunters are encouraged to scout the areas they are considering hunting and pay close attention to the signs on all roads. Signs are often the landowner's primary method of informing the public on which areas are open to hunting.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MAJOR TIMBER COMPANIES

Rayonier, Inc.

Website: <http://www.rayonier.com/>

IFP Office (360) 452-1351

Forks Office (360) 374-6565

Port Angeles (360) 457-2329

Information on Access Permits

- <http://property.rayonierhunting.com/Permits/PermitsHome.aspx>
- <http://property.rayonierhunting.com/AvailableAreas/FindProperties.aspx>

Previous season – 2014 online documents

http://property.rayonierhunting.com/CreateDocument/PermitMapImages/2014_General%20Access_Map.pdf

GMU 603 – Rayonier ownership

http://property.rayonierhunting.com/CreateDocument/PermitMapImages/2014_DeepCreek_Map.pdf

GMU 602 – Rayonier ownership

http://property.rayonierhunting.com/CreateDocument/PermitMapImages/2014_DickeyPermitArea_Map.pdf

GMU 615 – Rayonier ownership

http://property.rayonierhunting.com/CreateDocument/PermitMapImages/2014_KalalochRidge_Map.pdf

Green Crow

Website: <http://www.greencrow.com/contact-us/locations/>

Port Angeles (360) 452-3325

Merrill & Ring

Website: <http://www.merrillring.com/contacts/>

Port Angeles (360) 452-2367

Email: contact@merrillring.com

Cascade Timberlands

Website: <http://www.cascadetimberlands.com/>

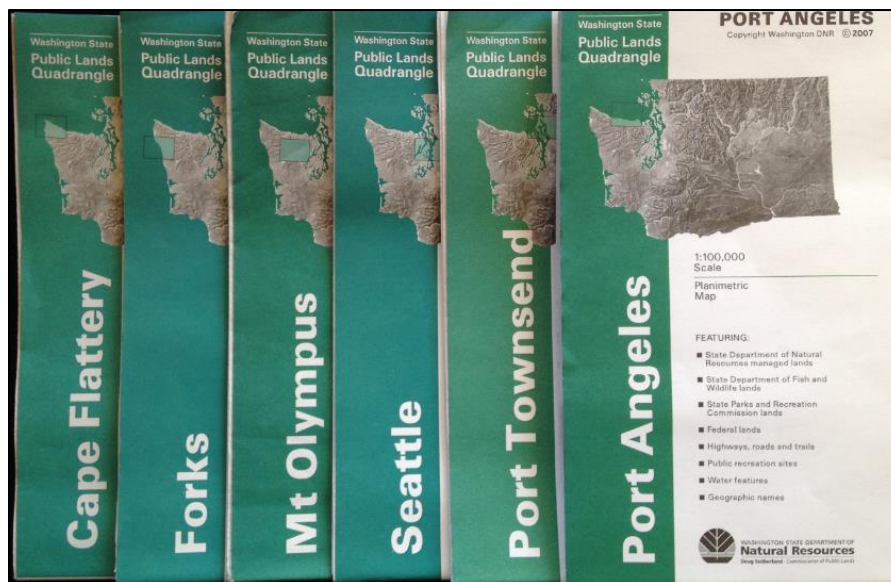
OTHER MAJOR LANDOWNERS

Hoh River Trust

Website: <http://hohrivertrust.publishpath.com//Websites/hohrivertrust/Images/webmap.jpg>

ONLINE TOOLS AND MAPS

Because land ownership can be very confusing, District Biologist McMillan recommends a set of these DNR maps which you can order online at [Buy Maps, Aerial Photos, or Survey Data | WA - DNR](#).



Often these DNR maps are available to buy at Swains & Browns in Port Angeles or at Thriftway in Forks

These DNR maps have the best combination of land ownership and current roads. However, keep in mind there have been several DNR & private forest land ownership exchanges in recent years that won't show up on these maps. DNR's website has current DNR ownership displayed at [DNR Ownership](#).

Other maps that can be helpful for select areas include:

Forest Service quadrangle maps can be obtained free online at http://data.fs.usda.gov/geodata/rastergateway/states-regions/states_zoom.php?stateID=wa

USFS also sells forest district maps that are very useful, as are the custom correct maps shown on the same page.

Link: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/olympic/maps-pubs/?cid=stelprdb5195398>

The map for the east end of WDFW District 16 is the Hood Canal Ranger District/North End map.

The maps for the west end of WDFW District 16 are the Pacific Ranger District/North End & South End maps.

HUNTING ORGANIZATIONS

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Brian Anderson

Phone: (206) 681-7134

Jefferson County Sportsmen's Association

Email: info@JeffersonCountySportsmen.org

P.O. Box 737, Port Townsend, WA 98368

Sportsmen for Wild Olympics

Email: info@sportsmenforwildolympics.org

Website: www.SportsmenForWildOlympics.org

Wapiti Bowman Archery Club

Steve Morgan

Email: smorgan1948@hotmail.com

P.O. Box 1003, Port Angeles, WA 98362

Website: <http://www.wapitibowmen.com/>

Eyes in the Woods

P.O. Box 2406, Olympia, WA 98507

Website: <http://www.eyesinthewoods.org/index.php/en/?Itemid=419>

West End Sportsmen's Club-Forks

Sportsman Club Road, Forks, WA 98331

Phone: (360) 374-5420

Washington Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Joe Mirasole & Gregg Bafundo

Website: http://www.backcountryhunters.org/washington_bha

Ducks Unlimited Olympic District

Chairman Mike Luecht

Email: papaluke@wavecable.com

Website: <http://www.ducks.org/washington/wa-content/state-contacts/?poe=stateHomeIcon>

Izaak Walton League of America Greater Seattle Chapter

A. William Way

Email: bway@watershedco.com

3451 E. Lake Sammamish Ln. N.E., Sammamish, WA 98074

Washington Brant Foundation

Maynard Axelson

Email: info@wabrant.org

15929 Fir Island Rd, Mt Vernon, WA 98273

Phone: (360) 445-6681

Website: <http://www.wabrant.org/>

If you know of an organization that should be included in this document, please contact Biologist McMillan at anita.mcmillan@dfw.wa.gov.